In The Matter Of:

Assassination Records Review Board
In Re: President John F. Kennedy, Jr.

Deposition of Francis X. O'Neill, Jr.
September 12, 1997

Miller Reporting Company, Inc.
507 C Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 546-6666 FAX: (202) 546-1502

Original File 0912onei.asc, 220 Pages
Min-U-Script® File ID: 4193710146

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BEFORE THE
ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD
IN RE: :
ASSASSINATION OF :
PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY :
Wednesday, September 12, 1997
College Park, Maryland
The deposition of FRANCIS X. O'NEILL, JR., called for examination in the above-entitled matter, pursuant to notice, at the National Archives II, 6381 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland, convened at 11:00 a.m. before Robert H. Haines, a notary public in and for the State of Maryland, when were present on behalf of the parties:

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APPEARANCES:
On Behalf of the Plaintiff:
T. JEREMY GUNN, ESQ.
General Counsel
The Assassination Records Review Board
600 E Street, N.W., Second Floor
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 724-0088
(202) 724-0457 Fax
ALSO PRESENT:
Douglas P. Horne, Senior Analyst
Thomas E. Samoluk, Esq.
Joan Zimmerman, Ph.D.
Marie Fagnant

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WITNESS THE ASSASSINATION RECORDS REVIEW BOARD
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ARRB Exhibit No. MD 189 6
[Exhibit retained by Mr. Gunn.]

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[1] PROCEEDINGS
[2] Whereupon,
[3] FRANCIS XAVIER O'NEILL, JR.
[4] was called for examination by counsel for The
[5] Assassination Records Review Board and, having been
[6] first duly sworn by the notary public, was examined
[7] and testified as follows:
[8] EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE ARRB
[9] BY MR. GUNN:
[10] Q: Would you state your name for the record,
[11] please?
[12] A: Francis Xavier O'Neill, O-'-N-e-i-l-l, Jr.
[13] Q: Mr. O'Neill, did you ever work for the
[14] Federal Bureau of Investigation?
[15] A: Yes, I did.
[16] Q: Did you work for the Federal Bureau of
[17] Investigation on November 22nd, 1963?
[18] A: Yes, I did.
[19] Q: What was your position at that time?
[20] A: I was the alternate senior resident agent
[21] of the Hyattsville resident agency, which is under
[22] the Baltimore field division of the FBI. By

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[1] jurisdiction, extended to being the agent that
[2] handled all violations of federal law which came
[3] under the purview of the FBI on Andrews Air Force
[4] Base.
[5] Q: Mr. O'Neill, this deposition is being
[6] conducted by the Assassination Records Review
[7] Board, which is an independent federal agency
[8] created by Congress in 1992 to collect records and
[9] information related to the assassination of
[10] President Kennedy.
[11] Here with me today is Doug Horne, whom you
[12] have met previously, staff of the Assassination
[13] Records Review Board. Dr. Joan Zimmerman is also
[14] here, as well as Marie Fagnant of the Assassination
[15] Records Review Board staff.
[16] What we would like to do is ask you some
[17] questions today in a somewhat formal procedure.
[18] We'd like you to give your answers to the best of
[19] your recollection, to provide the truth, the whole
[20] truth, and nothing but the truth, as the oath
[21] provides.
[22] Are there any reasons that you feel that

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[1] you are able to give anything less than the full
[2] truth to the questions related to the assassination
[3] of President Kennedy?
[4] A: Absolutely none.
[5] Q: During the course of the deposition, if I
[6] ask questions that seem to you to be unclear,
[7] please don't hesitate to ask me to either rephrase
[8] the question or repeat the question.
[9] A: Am I allowed to refresh my memory?
[10] Q: Certainly. What I would like to do, to
[11] the extent that you want to make reference to
[12] something, is just have it clear what you are
[13] making reference to.
[14] A: All right. This is a document which I am
[15] writing at the present time. But this is a chapter
[16] of a document–let me put it that way–about
[17] various things which occurred in my lifetime,
[18] starting with my birth up until the present day.
[19] This particular section of it pertains to
[20] the assassination of the President. I started this
[21] back in 1971, and have brought it up to date as of
[22] yesterday.

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[1] Q: Okay. What I'd like to do, if it is
[2] acceptable to you, is to mark a copy of the
[3] document that you've handed to me, MD 189.
[4] A: Please.
[5] Q: Is that acceptable?
[6] A: Certainly.
[7] [ARRB Exhibit No. MD 189
[8] marked for identification.]
[9] Q: And did– In the course of preparing this
[10] document now marked Exhibit 189, did you make any
[11] reference to other written documents?
[12] A: I don't know whether I made reference to
[13] the 302s which I wrote. I quite possibly did. And
[14] I think you already have copies of those 302s.
[15] Q: When you refer to the 302s, you're
[16] referring to an FBI document called a 302?
[17] A: That is correct. That is the FBI
[18] interview report form, which I– Concerning this
[19] particular case, I made one relative to the things
[20] which occurred on November 22nd; and another one
[21] which occurred on the events of November 27th; and,
[22] I believe, one or two relative to specific things

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[1] on probably the 25th or the 26th.
[2] Q: Of November –
[3] A: Of November of 1963.
[4] Q: Okay. We will be making reference to
[5] those documents in full detail later.
[6] A: All right.
[7] Q: Let me just state for the record that
[8] MD 89 appears on its face to be a document entitled
[9] Assassination of President John F. Kennedy and
[10] Aftermath.
[11] A: Ten pages.
[12] Q: And it's 10 pages long.
[13] A: Yes.
[14] Q: Mr. O'Neill, other than preparing or
[15] revising the document which you've just handed to
[16] me today, did you do anything else in preparation
[17] for this deposition?
[18] A: I reviewed my 302s. I've read–refreshed
[19] my memory with several books. I've reviewed tapes
[20] which I had made, two of which I have given you
[21] already–videotapes. There were some other tapes I
[22] reviewed, and that's about all.

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[1] Q: Okay. With respect to the tapes, it's my
[2] understanding that you've given copies of those
[3] tapes to Mr. Horne, and said that he could make
[4] copies and then return them to you.
[5] A: Yes. One of them is a tape from 1992,
[6] made before the Evidence Class of the Franklin
[7] Pierce Law School in New Hampshire. There was a
[8] discussion on rules of evidence and on evidence as
[9] they pertained to the class itself, specifically in
[10] the Kennedy assassination.
[11] There were two other assassination buffs
[12] who appeared on the panel with me. One of them is
[13] a man by the name of George Evica, I believe it is–
[14] pronunciation. And another gentleman, which I
[15] just don't recall his name. But the tape is about
[16] two hours long.
[17] The second tape is a tape of a–from a
[18] television station in Rhode Island, which goes
[19] throughout Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode
[20] Island, concerning the Kennedy assassination.
[21] Two professors appear on it. One of them
[22] is from Brown University. The other one, I just

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[1] forget where he's from. I do not appear physically
[2] on it, but I am on it for the entire hour through a
[3] telephone conversation, and answer questions from
[4] call-ins and other questions given to me by the
[5] person who was the moderator.
[6] Q: You said that you've made reference to
[7] some books. Could you tell me which books were–the books
[8] were?
[9] A: Oh, God, yes. I certainly– Well, some of
[10] them, I can. I think it was the– Oh, I have one
[11] with me here. This one here, "The Killing of the
[12] President" by Groden.
[13] Also, the books "Close Up" and– I just
[14] forget the author. There were several other books
[15] by– I just don't recall all of their names, quite
[16] frankly. But books on the assassination. Some
[17] pocket books, some regular books. That's about it,
[18] but there were substantial.
[19] Q: Would it be fair to say that you were
[20] reasonably well acquainted with literature on the
[21] Kennedy assassination?
[22] A: Yes, that would be true statement.

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[1] Q: Do you know the former special agent named
[2] James Sibert?
[3] A: I certainly do.
[4] Q: When, approximately, is the last time you
[5] spoke with Mr. Sibert?
[6] A: I think, telephonically, I spoke with Jim–oh,
[7] about two, three, four years ago, something
[8] like that. Physically, last time I spoke to Jim
[9] was back in 1970-some-odd.
[10] Q: Okay. What I'd like to do is get a very
[11] simple overview of activities that you had that
[12] relate to the Kennedy assassination, so I make sure
[13] that I understand the scope of what you have been
[14] involved in.
[15] A: Surely.
[16] Q: And then what we'll do is go back and talk
[17] through things specifically. So, this will just be
[18] to get –
[19] A: All right.
[20] Q: Now, it's my understanding that you were
[21] present at the autopsy –
[22] A: That is correct.

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[1] Q: – on November 22nd and 23rd. And that
[2] you wrote some 302s, both related to that and some
[3] interviews that were conducted reasonably shortly
[4] thereafter.
[5] A: That is correct.
[6] Q: Did you at any time talk to any member of
[7] the staff of the Warren Commission?
[8] A: Yes, I did.
[9] Q: Do you remember whom you spoke with?
[10] A: Arlen Specter.
[11] Q: Other than with Mr. Specter, did you speak
[12] with any other Warren Commission staff members?
[13] A: No, I did not. And, quite frankly, both
[14] Jim and I thought it very strange that we were not
[15] called before the Warren Commission to testify.
[16] Q: During the time that the Warren Commission
[17] was in existence in the 1963 or '64 period, did you
[18] have any other involvement or–with research, or
[19] investigations, or interviews related to the
[20] Kennedy assassination, other than what you've
[21] already mentioned?
[22] A: Well, bear this in mind now. When the FBI

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[1] was given the task of investigating the
[2] assassination of the President by President
[3] Johnson, a teletype went out to all field divisions
[4] saying to contact informants, both security
[5] informants and criminal informants, and conduct any
[6] type of investigation deemed feasible and advisable
[7] relative to it.
[8] There were many, many interviews which we
[9] conducted relative to the Kennedy assassination.
[10] Some which were negative. Some which were jointly
[11] with other people. Some with informants, which–
[12] None of them panned out to be of any value.
[13] Q: Okay. Did you speak with any officials at
[14] the FBI about the results of your participation in
[15] the autopsy or interviews?
[16] A: Oh, yes. I spoke to Ed Tully, who was the
[17] special agent in charge of the FBI office in
[18] Baltimore, who was my boss.
[19] I spoke to–I think his name is Malley,
[20] who was an inspector in the FBI under Rosen, who
[21] was the head of the criminal division. That was
[22] after the interview we had with Arlen Specter.

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[1] There were other interviews which we
[2] conducted telephonically–or I spoke to
[3] telephonically with the supervisors on the criminal
[4] desk in Washington headquarters.
[5] I don't know whether any 302s were made
[6] up, because when we were speaking on the telephone,
[7] we weren't really making notes of a interview
[8] report form. This was– Just relaying information
[9] to the Bureau headquarters is what occurred.
[10] That's about the–the size of it. If I
[11] think of any others as this interview continues, I
[12] certainly will bring it up.
[13] Q: Okay. We'll come back to the –
[14] A: Fine.
[15] Q: – to those names in a few moments.
[16] Probably more than a few moments, but we'll come
[17] back to those.
[18] Did you ever speak with Drs. Humes, Finck,
[19] or Boswell at any point after the autopsy was
[20] completed?
[21] A: No, sir.
[22] Q: You've never spoken with any of them

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[1] again?
[2] A: No, sir.
[3] Q: After the Warren Commission went out of
[4] existence in–towards the end of 1964, did you have
[5] any further involvement with issues related to the
[6] Kennedy assassination between that point in 1964
[7] and 1977 at the time of the House Select Committee
[8] on Assassinations?
[9] A: Yes. I've given interviews. I spoke on
[10] it before Kiwanis groups, and groups such as that.
[11] Let's see.
[12] Q: Other –
[13] A: Other than–other than things such as
[14] that? Now, let me see.
[15] No, sir. I'm just looking here. Nothing
[16] of an official nature. Not that I recall at this
[17] time.
[18] Q: Nothing– No interviews with U.S
[19] government officials or –
[20] A: No.
[21] Q: – inquiries? Again, other than with the
[22] HSCA?

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[1] A: Not official. Discussions with various
[2] agents about it, "Well, what happened Frank?", and
[3] "How did this occur?", and "What did you do?", or
[4] something like that. But nothing of an official
[5] nature.
[6] Q: Okay. Then you did meet with some people
[7] from the House Select Committee on Assassinations?
[8] A: Yes, I did.
[9] Q: Other than with the House Select Committee
[10] on Assassinations, did you do–have you been
[11] involved in any official way with any activities
[12] related to the assassination?
[13] Let me withdraw that and say it again.
[14] Other than those events that we've already
[15] discussed that you were involved in, did you have
[16] any other further involvements in–official
[17] involvements in activities related to the Kennedy
[18] assassination?
[19] A: Only as of today.
[20] Q: Okay. Could we go back and maybe have you
[21] tell us, just in brief, about your career in the
[22] FBI. When did you begin working for the Bureau?

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[1] A: I began working for the FBI when I
[2] received a letter from Mr. Hoover in 1954–December
[3] '54. I became an agent in '55. I got a– In
[4] January '55, I got about a month's reprieve for the
[5] birth of my second son. And I went down –
[6] Oh, should I go through the whole
[7] rigmarole, or –
[8] Q: The whole thing, yes. But just in brief,
[9] yes.
[10] A: Okay. I went to training school. At
[11] completion of the three months of training school,
[12] I was then assigned to the Cleveland field
[13] division. I stayed in Cleveland until 19–January
[14] of 19–well, February 1957 was transferred to the
[15] Maryland field division.
[16] Being in the Maryland field division for a
[17] period of two days, I was then assigned to the
[18] Hyattsville resident agency, which is under the
[19] field division. And Hyattsville resident agency
[20] had jurisdiction over all federal violations in
[21] Prince George's County, Maryland.
[22] Because of my military background, I was

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[1] assigned out to be the agent who did the contacting
[2] of the people and investigated any violations of
[3] laws which took place on Andrews Air Force Base.
[4] As such, on Andrews Air Force Base, I
[5] happened to know the Provost Marshall, who had been
[6] in the service with me; the Judge Advocate, who
[7] went to law school with me; the Club Officer, who
[8] went to high school with me; the–oh, several other
[9] individuals out there, who were very close personal
[10] friends.
[11] So, we developed quite a rapport. And
[12] anything which fell within our jurisdiction, we
[13] always settled it ourselves, rather than go to
[14] further headquarters, because of the rapport which
[15] we did have.
[16] After the Kennedy assassination and after
[17] being in– Oh, we handled every type of violation
[18] you could think of: bank robberies, espionage,
[19] sabotage–specifically, sabotage of the President
[20] aircraft. Let me see what other things we did at
[21] that time. Oh, kidnappings, extortions, all of the
[22] major criminal works.

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[1] I was assigned as the alternate senior
[2] resident agent at the resident agency after a
[3] period of years.
[4] My family was increasing. And I needed
[5] more money, quite frankly. So, I put in for a
[6] transfer to Washington headquarters after a lengthy
[7] chat with Mr. Hoover, and was transferred there in
[8] 1971, I believe it was, or '72.
[9] In Washington, I was assigned as the agent
[10] that handled Chinese matters. Then I was assigned
[11] as the agent that handled everything relative to
[12] Arab terrorism, and was the first terrorism expert
[13] in the FBI. I gave lectures down at the FBI
[14] Academy to various police departments.
[15] I was the agent that handled the
[16] assassination at Munichs (sic). I directed the
[17] investigation, as far as the Bureau was concerned,
[18] from Washington. I was that supervisor. I
[19] continued on as the agent on the desk of the Arabs
[20] and Israelis.
[21] Subsequent to that, I was transferred to
[22] the inspection division, where I conducted, I

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[1] think, 15 or 16 inspections of the various field
[2] divisions in the country, and one overseas field
[3] division.
[4] Returning back to headquarters after a
[5] year and a half touring that, I was assigned to the
[6] liaison division. I was liaison with the Secretary
[7] of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Department
[8] of Defense (alternate resident agency)- alternate
[9] to the Vice President, and was a member-alternate
[10] member of the-I think, the Foreign Intelligence
[11] Review Board or something. We prepared the weekly
[12] summaries for the President on intelligence
[13] matters.
[14] After a stay of that for a period of time,
[15] I was transferred to Connecticut as the assistant
[16] special agent in charge of the state of
[17] Connecticut. And I retired from the Bureau.
[18] That's as briefly as I can make it.
[19] Q: Okay. Prior to 1963, had you ever
[20] attended any autopsy?
[21] A: Yes, I had.
[22] Q: Approximately, how many?

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[1] A: Two. Oh, excuse me. Three.
[2] Q: Had any of the autopsies involved gunshot
[3] wounds?
[4] A: One did, yes. One at the Washington- Oh,
[5] what is the major hospital here in Washington,
[6] D.C.? I forget the name of it. But, yes, one did
[7] result in -
[8] As a matter of fact, I was interviewing
[9] the doctor when he was performing the autopsy.
[10] Going on to some- This was a gentleman who had
[11] been shot in a-I guess, some type of a hold-up or
[12] something like that.
[13] But, yes, that was the only one as far as
[14] a shooting was concerned. Others were a result of
[15] natural deaths.
[16] Q: Other than the Kennedy autopsy, had you-have you
[17] participated in any other autopsies?
[18] A: The two I just-the two or three I just
[19] mentioned, yes.
[20] Q: Those that you mentioned, the Kennedy
[21] autopsy, and any others after that?
[22] A: No, sir.

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[1] Q: What I'd like to do now is to show you a
[2] few documents for the purposes of authenticating
[3] them. Later in the deposition, we'll come back and
[4] talk about the documents.
[5] A: Sure.
[6] Q: So, this is just a-to do a quick
[7] identification. Let's start with Exhibit 149.
[8] MR. GUNN: I'm handing Mr. O'Neill Exhibit
[9] No. 149, a telex dated, on its face, 11/23/63.
[10] BY MR. GUNN:
[11] Q: Mr. O'Neill, have you previously seen the
[12] document marked Exhibit 149?
[13] A: I'm just trying to figure that out. Let
[14] me see if I did or not. [Examining document.]
[15] No, this was sent by the SAC to Washington
[16] headquarters as a result of information furnished
[17] to him. I do not see my initials on it, which
[18] means I probably did not see it.
[19] Q: Let me show you now -
[20] A: Let me see if- I just want to see if my
[21] initials are down at the bottom of it.
[22] Q: The next document is Exhibit No. 151,

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[1] which we'll refer to casually or informally as a
[2] 302.
[3] A: I will say that- May I go back to this
[4] one for a moment, please?
[5] Q: Yes. To 149?
[6] A: The information contained therein is
[7] information which we did furnish to the special
[8] agent in charge.
[9] Q: Okay.
[10] A: Now, this is a-it looks like an airtel,
[11] quite frankly.
[12] Q: The first two pages are cover sheets, an
[13] airtel -
[14] A: Oh, here's the 302. Now, this is a copy
[15] of the 302 which Jim Sibert and I made on the 26th
[16] of events which occurred on the 22nd.
[17] And just let me make-see something in
[18] here.
[19] Yep. Yep, this is it. And this is the-the
[20] authenticated one, too. And the reason I know
[21] that is, because there were some corrections which
[22] were made in the-oh, what do you call it-the old-time

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[1] mimeograph sheets that they ran on off a
[2] mimeograph machine.
[3] And I think there was something in here
[4] which we requested taken out, so they took it out.
[5] And that's the reason there's a space in there.
[6] Q: You're referring to the space on page
[7] three?
[8] A: Yes.
[9] Q: Do you know what was in the space?
[10] A: I have no idea at this time, no. But it
[11] was nothing which we thought was germane to the-to
[12] the case.
[13] Q: Okay. Could you look at Exhibit No. 152?
[14] A: By the way, just for your own information,
[15] this document was typed by the chief stenographer
[16] of the Baltimore field office, Doris Liebknecht,
[17] who was an outstanding steno. Just as an aside.
[18] Q: And you're referring there to Exhibit 151?
[19] A: Yes, I am.
[20] Q: Could you take a look at Exhibit No. 152,
[21] please? Tell me whether you've seen that before.
[22] A: The document itself, yes. This is the

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[1] interview of Bill Greer, which took place on the
[2] 27th at the White House.
[3] Just as an aside, during the autopsy
[4] itself, we never specifically stated that we're
[5] going to be interviewing anybody. It just happened
[6] as a result of the situation which occurred.
[7] Bear in mind now, nobody knew exactly who
[8] had jurisdiction over what at that particular time.
[9] We did know-I specifically knew that I had been
[10] told by Hoover to stay with the body. So, I took
[11] Jim with me.
[12] While at Andrews Air Force- While at the
[13] Bethesda, you've got to remember now that the
[14] Secret Service had jurisdiction over the protection
[15] of the President. And the person that they were
[16] protecting is dead, so it would seem that their
[17] jurisdiction ended.
[18] The Navy personnel had jurisdiction over
[19] the operation itself and the autopsy. And the
[20] Bureau, from our way of thinking, had the
[21] investigative jurisdiction over trying to find out
[22] who killed him. So, we assumed that jurisdiction

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[1] without any direction from anybody else.
[2] And that was the reason I kept General
[3] Wehle out of the autopsy room. We didn't want
[4] anybody in there who was not supposed to be there.
[5] We did, at our own decision–Jim and mine–to send
[6] a sheet of paper around to have the
[7] various people who were in attendance sign it, so
[8] that we'd have a general idea who was there. That,
[9] by no means, means that we took the names of every
[10] single individual who was there, but only those
[11] who, to the best of our recollection, were there at
[12] the time.
[13] I know there was a gentleman from Dallas.
[14] He contacted me many, many–many, many long years
[15] later. He was a lieutenant in the Army, I believe.
[16] He was an aide to General Wehle, who sat up there
[17] in the balcony for most of the time.
[18] So, go on with your question.
[19] Q: Okay. You –
[20] A: I happen to digress. I'm sorry.
[21] Q: You recognize Exhibit No. 152 as a
[22] document that you prepared in conjunction with

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[1] Mr. Sibert; is that correct?
[2] A: Yes. Now, I want to say– One other thing
[3] I want to say, too. That Jim and I decided that
[4] rather than be so very forward about it and say,
[5] "Well, what did you say? What did that say–he
[6] say?", we would take one agent each–I mean, one
[7] Secret Service agent each.
[8] So, I took Kellerman, and Jim took Greer.
[9] So, there's some things that Jim remembers what
[10] Greer said, and some things I remember that
[11] Kellerman said–both in the White House and also at
[12] the autopsy. We did get together and review the
[13] notes, but there's always something which might
[14] have been left out.
[15] And I'll say one other thing, too. I
[16] don't know whether it's in any document or not. A
[17] lot of things which have come up since those
[18] incidents which occurred on the 22nd and the 27th,
[19] which really had no–nothing of–we thought
[20] important enough to put into the paper, is of
[21] tremendous importance today. But not then, at that
[22] time.

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[1] One specific thing was what Greer told me–excuse
[2] me, let me rephrase that–what Kellerman
[3] told me. And this was concerning the first shot.
[4] When the first shot happened, they came in like
[5] this [hitting table three times with hand]. This
[6] is what Kellerman said. In fact, he did that same
[7] thing with his hand like that.
[8] Q: If I can characterize that for the record.
[9] There was one shot–I'm assuming you're referring
[10] to–followed by a space, and then two shots in
[11] rapid succession.
[12] A: Yes, more rapid than the–than the last
[13] two. Okay? I mean, more rapid than the first and
[14] the second.
[15] Q: All right.
[16] A: He heard somebody in the back seat say,
[17] "My God, I've been hit."
[18] And I said, "Roy, are you positive?"
[19] And he said, "Without a question of a
[20] doubt?" He said, "Frank, I'm telling you.
[21] Somebody said, 'My God, I've been hit.'"
[22] And I said, "But who said that?"

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[1] He says, "Well, President Kennedy."
[2] I said, "How can you be sure? There was
[3] another man in the back seat."
[4] He said, "Frank, I've known this man for
[5] three years." He said, "And when we were off duty,
[6] it was just Jim, or Jack, or Roy–whatever it might
[7] be.
[8] And he said that the President was a very
[9] fun-loving man. And he said he didn't go with any
[10] formalities. When other people were around, then
[11] it was strictly "Mr. President" and things of some
[12] sort.
[13] So, he said, "I knew that man. I know his
[14] accent better than I know my father's. And there
[15] was only one man in that back seat that spoke with
[16] a Boston accent. And that was the President."
[17] So, I don't know whether that's anywhere
[18] here, but I've been telling that as a matter of
[19] fact, as God as my witness, since day two or day
[20] three.
[21] Knowing now–knowing now that this was a
[22] bullet wound in the throat– Mind you now, when we

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[1] interviewed Kellerman and Greer, both that evening
[2] and in the White House, we had no indication
[3] whatsoever that there was a bullet wound in the
[4] throat. Absolutely none. In fact, even to this
[5] day, I question it. And I'll tell you why later.
[6] But –
[7] Q: When you say the "throat", you're
[8] referring to the front of the throat; is that
[9] correct?
[10] A: Yes, I am.
[11] Q: Okay.
[12] A: Correct. Because what we saw–and I say
[13] "we", I'm talking about every single person in that
[14] autopsy room saw–the tracheotomy. I've seen
[15] tracheotomies before. I know what a tracheotomy
[16] is. But not just from my own viewing of it, but
[17] the doctor said specifically, "This is a
[18] tracheotomy."
[19] Now, when the question came up about the
[20] wound in the back here, there was not this –
[21] Q: You're pointing to your shoulder?
[22] A: To my right shoulder. Back here about two

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[1] inches down over here.
[2] – there was not the slightest doubt when
[3] we left there that the bullet found on the
[4] stretcher in Dallas was the bullet which worked its
[5] way out through external cardiac massage.
[6] And the doctor said, since the body had
[7] not been turned over in Dallas, "External cardiac
[8] massage was conducted on the President, and the
[9] bullet worked its way out." There was not the
[10] slightest doubt–not a scintilla of doubt
[11] whatsoever that this is what occurred.
[12] In fact, during the latter part of it and
[13] when the–when the examination was completed, the
[14] doctor says, "Well, that explains it." Because Jim
[15] had gone out, called the laboratory, learned about
[16] the bullet, came back in. We thought it might have
[17] been an ice bullet. We thought it might have been
[18] a wax bullet, a plastic bullet. There was no
[19] explanation of it.
[20] Because I was closer to the President's
[21] body than I am to you, and you're only about a foot
[22] and a half away or two feet away. And viewing them

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[1] with the surgical probe and with their fingers,
[2] there was absolutely no point of exit; and they
[3] couldn't go any further. And that presented a
[4] problem–one heck of a problem. And that's why Jim
[5] went out and called.
[6] And now this was the exact thought when
[7] the entire autopsy is completed. The body has been
[8] dressed–washed, dressed, powdered, and is all set
[9] to go to the White House, and, in fact, left for
[10] the White House.
[11] And then several days later or something
[12] or other, we had heard that the doctor said further
[13] examination–I don't know examination of what–further
[14] examination showed that it worked its way
[15] back through a strap muscle, and came out the
[16] throat into President Connally–I mean, Governor
[17] Connally, et cetera.
[18] Not that evening. Not when the body was
[19] there. The body was gone.
[20] I understand later, too–this is all
[21] hearsay from what I'm saying now–that Humes or
[22] Boswell called down to speak to Dr. Malcolm Perry,

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[1] I believe his name was, and explaining the protocol
[2] which had occurred up in Bethesda.
[3] And then Perry said, "Well, how about the
[4] bullet wound in the throat?"
[5] And I think it was Humes said, "What
[6] bullet wound in the throat?"
[7] And they said, "Well, we performed a
[8] tracheotomy over a wound in the throat."
[9] And now place yourself in the position of
[10] the autopsy surgeons, to try to explain a completed
[11] autopsy on the President of the United States
[12] without explaining a bullet wound in the throat.
[13] I couldn't do it. I don't know how they
[14] did it. But somebody –
[15] Well, we digressed an awful lot, but–
[16] That's the way it was then. Now, get back to– I'm
[17] so sorry.
[18] Yes, this is a document that was made
[19] concerning –
[20] Q: Because you've raised one thing, though,
[21] I'd like to just pursue one point.
[22] A: Sure.

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[1] Q: And, again, we will come back and be
[2] dealing with many of these issues.
[3] When you learned that the doctors had
[4] subsequently stated that the bullet went through
[5] the back and out the throat, did you do anything
[6] about that or say anything to anybody?
[7] A: We didn't learn that officially. We just
[8] heard that just from the newspapers reports and
[9] things such as that. No, we did nothing officially
[10] on that.
[11] Both Jim and I looked at each other and
[12] said, "No way." I mean, we sat– I was here; he
[13] was there. We had our office together, he and I.
[14] But, no, I did nothing specifically about it.
[15] Q: Did anyone from the FBI ever contact you
[16] and ask you any questions about that?
[17] A: No.
[18] Q: Did that surprise you–that no one from
[19] the FBI ever contacted you about?
[20] A: About what now?
[21] Q: About what we can say is an apparent
[22] discrepancy between what your report of the autopsy

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[1] says and what the final autopsy protocol says?
[2] A: No, because the Bureau, quite frankly, had
[3] faith in us as agents, and believed–I don't know
[4] whether they still do to this day or not–that what
[5] we said was a fact. And, in fact, they put it into
[6] several reports, even after the information came
[7] out relative to it. We were there. We saw. We
[8] have no–no axe to grind.
[9] In fact, we were the only people there who
[10] had no axe to grind. It wasn't our man who was
[11] killed. It wasn't we who are conducting the
[12] autopsy and, evidently–how am I going to say this–
[13] rephrased some of the things or re-thought some of
[14] the things after the body had gone.
[15] No. We just reported it as we–as we put
[16] it down in black and white.
[17] Q: One of the people who was aware of the
[18] final autopsy report, as well as your report, was
[19] Arlen Specter.
[20] A: That is correct. He certainly did.
[21] Q: Did he raise that question –
[22] A: Yes, he did.

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[1] Q: – in his interview with you?
[2] A: Mm-hmm.
[3] Q: What's your best recollection of what he
[4] said and what you said, in regard to apparent
[5] discrepancies between your report and the autopsy
[6] report?
[7] A: Well, we told him that there was no
[8] discrepancy. As best I can feel– I haven't seen
[9] any documents since that time. I think we
[10] mentioned to him–in fact, I'm quite sure–that as
[11] far as we were concerned, what we wrote was the
[12] truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.
[13] If somebody wants to say something else,
[14] that's their business. And they have to explain
[15] it. But we explained it exactly as it was that
[16] evening. No ifs, or buts, or qualms about it.
[17] Specter– Well, go ahead.
[18] Q: Okay.
[19] A: I don't know how far –
[20] He did not impress me as being an
[21] investigator, number one. He made great mention of
[22] the fact that he had been a lieutenant in OSI.

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[1] Because I asked him specifically, I believe, what
[2] investigative background he had. And he said he'd
[3] been a lieutenant in OSI.
[4] And, so, I said, "What type of
[5] investigations did you conduct?" And he couldn't
[6] give us specifically of any criminal
[7] investigations. I think he was of the opinion that
[8] he was a great investigator.
[9] Evidently, something–we said or the
[10] entire interview that Jim and I gave him, caused
[11] him to have very little faith in what we said.
[12] In fact, I have read in the newspaper that
[13] he made some statement thereafter to the fact that,
[14] "After the autopsy was over," or something such as
[15] that, "they ran out of their office, and ran up to
[16] Baltimore to dictate something." Which was a lot
[17] of bull. It was not true.
[18] When the autopsy was completed, we had the
[19] bullets–or the fragments of the bullets which we
[20] had to take back to the laboratory, which we gave
[21] to a agent by the name of Frazier. We had to get
[22] back home. In fact, I didn't get home till about

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[1] 7:00 o'clock that–7:00 a.m. that morning.
[2] Jim and I got together–I believe it was
[3] on–oh, in the car going out to the–Andrews AFB–
[4] to discuss different things. I said, we'll get
[5] together–I think it was on Monday–up in Baltimore
[6] to discuss it.
[7] We dictated on Tuesday. I think it was
[8] the 26th we dictated, or something like that.
[9] Yeah, I think it was on the 26th we dictated it.
[10] So, by him saying that we got right away
[11] out and ran up to Baltimore to speak to people
[12] there was totally hogwash, which– Quite frankly, I
[13] had a very little opinion of Specter to begin with,
[14] and this just lessened that opinion.
[15] Q: Were you surprised at all that neither
[16] your report–your 302 nor the FBI summary report
[17] was published by the Warren Commission?
[18] A: I was not only surprised that those
[19] reports were not published by the Warren
[20] Commission, Jim and I both had mentioned that we
[21] were extremely surprised that we were not–not
[22] interviewed by somebody with some type of substance

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[1] in the Warren Commission rather than, quite
[2] frankly, a flunky.
[3] Q: Okay.
[4] A: And I haven't spoken to Specter since
[5] then. Nor do I intend to. Unless we have a chat
[6] in the hall or something.
[7] Q: Let me show you one last document at this
[8] time, and ask you whether you can identify this
[9] document, which I'll state for the record is
[10] Exhibit 156.
[11] It appears, on its face, to be dated
[12] November 26th, 1963, by Agents Sibert and O'Neill
[13] to SAC, Baltimore. It's a little bit hard to read.
[14] A: [Examining document.] Yes, this is one
[15] which we wrote. This is quite true.
[16] Mrs. Kennedy told Admiral Burkley, and he
[17] related it to Admiral–who told us that Mrs.
[18] Kennedy wanted a partial autopsy.
[19] And Jim and I and Kellerman looked at each
[20] other. And as far as we were concerned, from an
[21] investigative point of view, a partial autopsy is
[22] not going to show the cause of death. And this was

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[1] the reason for the autopsy.
[2] So, we wanted a full autopsy. However, we
[3] could not give directions to the doctors. So,
[4] Admiral Holloway, I believe it was, the commanding
[5] officer of the naval station, did.
[6] I– May I ask another question, please?
[7] There's another 302 there. I don't know
[8] whether you have it or not–the 302 of Kellerman,
[9] November 27th. Do you have that one?
[10] Q: All of them are in the –
[11] A: Oh, is that in that one?
[12] Q: – Exhibit No. 152.
[13] A: Oh, I'm sorry.
[14] Q: They're all connected.
[15] A: Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see that.
[16] Okay, fine. Roy Kellerman. Okay, good.
[17] Great.
[18] Q: As we go through things, we'll be making
[19] reference to these specific documents. So, we'll
[20] be coming back to them.
[21] A: Fine, okay.
[22] Q: Okay. Let's now turn to November 22nd,

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[1] 1963, if we could. Could you tell me when you
[2] first heard about the assassination of President
[3] Kennedy?
[4] A: Yes, about– Shortly before 1:00 o'clock,
[5] I was in my radio car, driving in Prince George's
[6] County, Maryland. And I got a radio message from–let me
[7] see–Gene Weimer, SA Weimer. And he said
[8] that he had just heard that the President had been
[9] shot. This was–well, sometime between 12:15, say,
[10] and 1:45. We just heard the President had been
[11] shot.
[12] So, I was close to the police headquarters
[13] in Prince George's County, which at that time was
[14] in Seat Pleasant. And I went over there
[15] immediately, because I knew that if there was
[16] anything on the radio or television, or something
[17] such as that, they would have it in one of the
[18] offices there.
[19] So, I met Sergeant Hamilton and Lieutenant
[20] George Clements, and we went to their office. And
[21] they had on television, at that particular time,
[22] about the assassination of the President. So, we

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[1] sat there with a cup of coffee and watched it for a
[2] period of time.
[3] And Walter Cronkite was speaking. And
[4] then he interrupted it, and came back and said the
[5] President had been killed–assassinated–had died.
[6] And the body was being prepared to be taken to
[7] Andrews Air Force Base.
[8] I called up Bob Best, who was the director
[9] of law enforcement security, and told him that the
[10] body was coming to Andrews. And he had not heard
[11] that, so this was the first that he knew that the
[12] body was coming to Andrews.
[13] He said, "Frank, will you come on out
[14] here, and brief the base commander?"
[15] I said, "Certainly."
[16] In the meantime, right after that
[17] conversation, I called Baltimore to tell Tully that
[18] I was going out to Andrews to assume whatever
[19] jurisdiction over any violations–jurisdiction over
[20] any violations that might fall within our purview.
[21] I also said that I'd like to get another
[22] agent to come out there with me, so there would be

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[1] two of us to be a witness to whatever might happen.
[2] So, he says, "I'll try to get a hold of Jim
[3] Sibert."
[4] So, I went out to Andrews, and was out
[5] there speaking to Bob Best, who by that time had
[6] gotten the head of OSI, Bob Mitchell, another close
[7] personal friend of mine, and the–Joe–Lord have
[8] mercy on him, he's dead for so many years–the
[9] Judge Advocate. We went over to–to brief the
[10] general.
[11] When we were doing that–just after we got
[12] there, Jim Sibert came in. He had been trying to
[13] get out there for a period of time. He said,
[14] "Frank, the road coming out here," from Hyattsville
[15] out to Camp Springs, Maryland, for Andrews, "was
[16] jammed with people coming into base,"– It was an
[17] open base. He said, "People are coming into this
[18] base in droves." I guess, to see anything that may
[19] happen. They heard on the radio that the President
[20] was going to come back there.
[21] So, we–"we" meaning Bob Best and myself
[22] and Jim Sibert–looked at the general. And Bob

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said, "We better close the base."
And the general said, "Fine." At that time, we closed the base, preventing anybody from coming on who did not have a legitimate reason to be there.
Those people who had a legitimate reason to be there were those people who resided on the base; those people who worked on the base; the press corps; the members of Congress; the members of the Supreme Court; the foreign diplomatic group of people; those members of the Cabinet who were not flying over to Japan at the time; TV newsreels; and people like that.
However, a large amount of people had already gotten on the base. They closed the base, and we then waited the arrival of the Air Force One.
We went over to base operations. And at base operations, they were just setting up the areas where the press was going to be; where the TV was going to be; where the members of Congress were going to be; setting up microphones, so that if

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anybody from Air Force One was going to make a speech, talk or something similar to that, they could do so.
Shortly –
[Interruption to the proceedings.]
THE WITNESS: Shortly– Oh, well.
MR. GUNN: Off the record.
[Discussion off the record.]
THE WITNESS: Let me see. Looking out from base operations on to the tarmac, there's a fence which the people were kept in back of. This is the general public.
There was a gate in the fence for people to walk through, and then there was another gate down there for vehicles to come in and out of. Both of them were closed at the time.
We went out there–"we" being Best, Sibert, myself, and Bob Mitchell–at five minutes of 6:00. The plane was supposed to leave–land about 6:00 or five after 6:00.
About five minutes of 6:00, the plane was already in this landing pattern–coming around.

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And I think it landed about 6:00. And then taxiing took another five minutes.
An OSI agent came to Bob Mitchell and said that he had heard–no–and said that the SAC in Baltimore was trying to contact me. I went inside and used the phone in the base operations building.
Jim Tully said, "Frank, I just got a call from Hoover. And Hoover is aware that you're out there, and said he wanted you to stay with the body, so that if there is any evidence of what occurred in the body, take that evidence back to our FBI laboratory."
"Fine." When Mr. Hoover said something, that was it. So, you did it.
I went out onto the tarmac again. I knew Jim Rowley, as the director of Secret Service. I saw Jim there. I said, "Jim, I was told to stay with the body. Mr. Hoover just directed me."
He said, "Fine. We'll get you into the motorcade. I want you to just stay right over here." I did.
The plane landed. Prior to a plane

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landing, the was a gray ambulance–a naval ambulance, which came on up and parked right close to the aircraft which was taxiing on up at that time. Parked there, and the plane taxied on up.
I don't know where Bobby Kennedy came from, but I saw Bobby Kennedy go into the front of the aircraft. And a short time thereafter, within a matter of a minute, minute and a half, the back of the aircraft opened.
And I do have– Maybe it would be better for me, if I could explain it to you here. This is a magazine from Life. I'm sure you've seen it.
BY MR. GUNN:
Q: This is the Life magazine dated November 20...?
A: I don't see it anywhere on there. But it's about the 26th or 27th, or sometime. Was there a date on there?
Q: This is the undated Life magazine, but from November of 1963.
A: Yeah. Here, let me see. Oh, yeah. Bobby went in the front of the plane and

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walked to the back. And here's the ambulance here. And they opened the door–he opened the door. It was he and Jackie Kennedy, you could see, were in the–from the cars–I mean, in the entrance there.
An elevator was up to the plane. They had some problem getting–as I recall–the casket onto the elevator. They brought it on down. And then a whole group of people–and here's a group of people taking it in.
One of the people here– Well, in fact, this is Bill Greer, as I mentioned before. That's Bill Greer, this man here.
This is Kenny O'Donnell, the presidential–
I think one of these ladies is Pamela Turnure–I'm not sure just which one, though, because that was the only evening I ever saw her–she was the White House secretary for Mrs. Kennedy.
Q: Just so I can describe it very briefly.
A: Yes.
Q: This is a photograph that shows Bobby Kennedy standing erect on the–towards the left

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side of the page. Next to him is Jackie Kennedy. Then there are what appear to be –
A: This is Bill Greer, specifically.
Q: These are people down below –
A: Right.
Q: – down below Bobby Kennedy. Is there anyone else down there that you can identify?
A: Yes, the head up here. This is Roy Kellerman.
Q: Okay. Going–you're going left to right?
A: Yes. And these other people there– This looks like Hoover. It's not Hoover. Hoover wasn't there. I don't know who these other gentlemen are.
But these were all, as I understand, members of Secret Service. Specifically, I don't know. But Kellerman and Greer, you can– This is Bill Greer, definitely.
Q: If I can interrupt you for a moment –
A: Surely.
Q: – and ask you some questions about any other conversations that you had with Mr. Rowley, other than what you have mentioned so far.

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[1] Did you talk with him at any other point
[2] at Andrews Air Force Base?
[3] A: Only when he came over and said, "I want
[4] you to get in this car here." That was the only
[5] other time.
[6] So, when–This is–They come down here.
[7] They open the back, and they put in the casket.
[8] These gentlemen are putting in the casket here.
[9] Kellerman walked around to this side. No.
[10] First of all, it was–Greer came in here, opened
[11] the door –
[12] Q: You're pointing to the left front door –
[13] A: Of the ambulance.
[14] Q: – of the Navy ambulance.
[15] A: He directed the driver to get out.
[16] Kellerman was still back up here, directing things.
[17] Mrs. Kennedy and Bobby Kennedy got into
[18] the hearse itself. I don't recall anybody else
[19] getting into the hearse.
[20] But then Kellerman came over here –
[21] Q: When you say "the hearse"–I'm sorry–you're
[22] referring to the Navy ambulance?

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[1] A: The Navy ambulance, yes.
[2] All right. Kellerman came over here. And
[3] whoever was in the front seat over here got out,
[4] and Kellerman got in. And this is all done in a
[5] matter of moments.
[6] In the meantime, while this is going on,
[7] people are coming out of here. And Rowley is
[8] pointing to specific vehicles that they were going
[9] to get into.
[10] He got a hold of Jim and I, and said, "Get
[11] into this one." And we got into the–I think it
[12] was the second car in the motorcade–one with
[13] Pamela Turnure, Mrs. Kennedy's secretary, and the
[14] White House valet.
[15] And then it took off for Bethesda Naval
[16] Hospital.
[17] Q: If I could interrupt you there for a
[18] moment.
[19] A: Yes.
[20] Q: Did you talk to any other Secret Service
[21] agents while you were at Andrews Air Force Base?
[22] A: Not that I know of, no.

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[1] Q: No substantive discussions about –
[2] A: No.
[3] Q: – any issues?
[4] A: No.
[5] Q: Okay.
[6] A: One of the very first things– When we got
[7] into the car, the very first thing, I believe
[8] Pamela Turnure said, "Have you got a cigarette?"
[9] In fact, she smoked almost a whole pack of
[10] cigarettes between Andrews and out to Bethesda.
[11] And she wanted to know if we heard any
[12] word yet on Governor Connally. And I said, "No, we
[13] were not down there."
[14] We had some small-talk conversations with
[15] the valet, but nothing of any substance.
[16] Ms. Turnure was very distraught–at that
[17] particular time. We were just chatting and trying
[18] to get her mind back and forth.
[19] A strange thing happened en route to the
[20] Andrews Air–I mean, en route coming down Suitland
[21] Parkway. The people were lined up on the sides,
[22] very quiet. The motorcade was going along, I

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[1] think, at– I don't know what speed, but somewhere
[2] around 20, 25 miles an hour, something like that.
[3] There were several cars in back of us.
[4] But a group of Hell's Angels came by on
[5] their motorcycles, and they were whooping and going
[6] in and out among the cars. Very fortunately, some
[7] of the Metropolitan Police Department and the
[8] policemen who on were motorcycles from the Park
[9] Police spotted them, and they didn't do it much
[10] longer. I don't know what happened, but they
[11] disappeared very quickly. I know they took care of
[12] the situation very nicely.
[13] We got out to Bethesda –
[14] Q: I'm sorry. If I could, again, interrupt
[15] you for a moment.
[16] From the time that the casket was loaded
[17] in the Navy ambulance, were you able to either see
[18] the ambulance or the casket up to the time that you
[19] arrived at Bethesda?
[20] A: Every single moment. Every single moment.
[21] There was no possibility that the vehicle stopped–or the
[22] ambulance stopped; that anybody took a

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[1] casket out, switched any bodies, as some "authors"–because
[2] they're not authors–some people have
[3] said. No way at all. Nothing.
[4] So, now we're out at Andrews–excuse me.
[5] We're out at Bethesda Naval Station. We come in
[6] through the main gate. Now we have naval personnel
[7] on either sides. Now we have other individuals.
[8] There are people watching it, looking at it.
[9] The ambulance moved in front. Mrs. –
[10] Q: The front of the hospital?
[11] A: The front of the hospital.
[12] Now, bear in mind, I'm familiar with the
[13] hospital there, and so is Jim, because we took our
[14] physical examinations there every year. So, we
[15] were familiar with a good portion of the hospital
[16] itself.
[17] Mrs. Kennedy got out. Bobby Kennedy got
[18] out. And people from the–from the hospital
[19] itself– I believe that Admiral Holloway chatted
[20] and talked.
[21] In the first car, which was in front of
[22] us, was Larry O'Brien and Kenny O'Donnell, Godfrey

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[1] McHugh–General McHugh was the–I think, maybe
[2] Admiral Burkley or somebody. But there was a group
[3] of people there.
[4] After some small talk, evidently, in
[5] front, Kellerman went into the hospital. Bobby
[6] Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy, and probably Burkley,
[7] went in and went up to either the 17th or 19th
[8] floor.
[9] And now we have Larry O'Brien and Kenny
[10] O'Donnell and McHugh chatting in front of the
[11] place. They were there for a period of time. And
[12] Jim and I are looking at each other –
[13] Oh, Pamela Turnure, by the way, got out,
[14] too. She went with Mrs. Kennedy. The valet went
[15] in also, I guess.
[16] There was a period of time nothing
[17] happened. Jim and I looked at each other, and we
[18] decided to find out what the story was. We went up
[19] to Larry O'Brien and said, "What's the delay?"
[20] And as best I recall, he said, "Well, they
[21] don't know"–Greer was the driver of the ambulance–"where
[22] the autopsy room was."

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[1] So, both Jim and I said, we knew where it
[2] was. We drove around the back; and the ambulance
[3] drove around the back, too.
[4] Now, I've heard that there's been some
[5] discussion, or some talk, or some chat about
[6] another ambulance. That people were chasing it
[7] back and forth. I don't recall it.
[8] Q: Did you see–other than the Navy gray
[9] ambulance that the casket was in, did you see any
[10] other ambulance out at Bethesda?
[11] A: Not– well, there were other ambulances
[12] there. But I–but not, to the best of my
[13] recollection, that any took off, or any had the
[14] body in it, or anything like that.
[15] Q: Did you see any hearses at Andrews–I'm
[16] sorry.
[17] A: Hearse? No.
[18] Q: At Bethesda?
[19] A: No, sir.
[20] Q: Okay.
[21] A: So, we drove around the back. The– Let
[22] me see.

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[1] The ambulance stopped. And round in back,
[2] coming out of the wing where–and the corridor–put
[3] it this way–where the autopsy room was. You come
[4] out of the corridor, then you have a door–a
[5] swinging door, then you have sort of a little
[6] platform there. Kellerman was coming out of there.
[7] So, we went around. The ambulance
[8] stopped. We got out of our car. We went over to
[9] the ambulance. I saw Kellerman coming on out. And
[10] I went over to him, and I said, "My name is Frank
[11] O'Neill, FBI agent."
[12] He says, "I know. I've already got a call
[13] from Rowley that you're going to be here."
[14] He and I and Jim and Greer opened the back
[15] of the ambulance. At about this time, the honor
[16] guard came.
[17] We took the casket out, and put it on a
[18] conveyance; and wheeled it on in, with the honor
[19] guard, up to the steps; and took it on up to the
[20] step, because I think there was one step there–no,
[21] I don't know whether there was a step, or whether
[22] it was an incline–but up to the doors here, pushed

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[1] the doors open.
[2] And inside, after about–oh, 10 or 15
[3] steps, or something like that, there's a door on
[4] the left-hand side. We pushed it in there, which
[5] is a small anteroom. And in the anteroom were some
[6] slots. It was sort of a morgue. It was a morgue
[7] that they used for the hospital.
[8] I do recall specifically that–being told
[9] that there was a child in one of the slots there
[10] that had died that day.
[11] We then moved the–for want of a better
[12] word–dolly with the casket on it into the autopsy
[13] room through the swinging doors, and on over to a
[14] group of individuals who were in surgical garb
[15] standing right next to an autopsy table.
[16] Q: Could we stop there?
[17] A: Sure.
[18] Q: There are some questions I have.
[19] Who physically lifted the casket up to the
[20] loading dock or the platform? Was that the honor
[21] guard, or did you do that?
[22] A: I believe it was the honor guard, but Jim

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[1] and I and Kellerman and Greer assisted in it. And
[2] it was the same way pushing it in, and the same way
[3] when we got it on over to the–to the autopsy
[4] table.
[5] Q: Do you know approximately what time you
[6] arrived at the back of Bethesda Hospital?
[7] A: It was after 7:00. I believe it was.
[8] 7:05, something like that.
[9] Q: Okay. And you're quite –
[10] A: Generally speaking.
[11] Q: And you're quite certain that there was an
[12] honor guard –
[13] A: Yes.
[14] Q: – is that right?
[15] A: Yeah.
[16] Q: Do you know which military branch the
[17] honor guard came from? Do you recall?
[18] A: No. I'd be–I'd be guessing. I think
[19] Army, but I'm just guessing on that. The easiest
[20] thing would be to say Navy, because it was a naval
[21] installation. But I don't recall exactly who it
[22] was.

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[1] Q: Okay. Now, were you with the casket
[2] yourself from the time it was at the loading dock
[3] to the time that it got into the morgue?
[4] A: Absolutely.
[5] Q: Were you present when the casket was
[6] opened?
[7] A: Absolutely.
[8] Q: And was there anytime between the time the
[9] casket was taken out of the ambulance and that you
[10] saw the casket opened that you were not with the
[11] casket?
[12] A: No, sir. In fact, there was no time–from
[13] the first time I saw the casket being taken out of
[14] the aircraft with Bobby Kennedy and Mrs. Kennedy
[15] until the time that it was opened and the body
[16] taken out–that that casket was not in my view or
[17] the vehicle, which it was in, in my view.
[18] Q: Okay. Can you describe what you saw when
[19] the casket was opened?
[20] A: Yes, to the best of my recollection now.
[21] You couldn't miss the body which was in there.
[22] Around the head of the body was a very, very bloody

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[1] sheet. Around the body itself was another sheet
[2] with blood.
[3] The body itself in these sheets was on
[4] another plastic type of a material, which we could
[5] only assume was placed under the body to prevent it
[6] from oozing blood all over the inside of the
[7] casket.
[8] Taking the sheet off the President's head,
[9] his–the first thing which struck you is, there's a
[10] massive wound in the upper right. Back here.
[11] Q: Just so I can say that. When you were
[12] pointing to that, you're pointing to the area above
[13] and behind your right ear –
[14] A: Yes.
[15] Q: – is that correct?
[16] A: That is correct, yeah.
[17] Q: And it –
[18] A: In this general area, right there. In
[19] that area there.
[20] His eyes were open, to the best of my
[21] recollection. His mouth was in sort of a grimace.
[22] And his hands were up, so that he was something

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[1] like that. I believe that's the way it was.
[2] Q: With your hands– With his hand clenched
[3] is what you're saying?
[4] A: Yes, yes.
[5] Q: Like a fist?
[6] A: Yes, yeah. Very bloody sight.
[7] Q: Was there any question in your mind
[8] whether that was President Kennedy when you saw
[9] him?
[10] A: No, I–I knew President Kennedy. I used
[11] to make it a point to go out to Andrews Air Force
[12] Base when any–from the time of Eisenhower all the
[13] way up through Carter–when the President left and
[14] when the President returned, just in case there was
[15] anything. So, I knew of him.
[16] He certainly looked like the President. I
[17] didn't take fingerprints. But to the best of my
[18] recollection, that was the President of the United
[19] States.
[20] Q: Do you recall who opened the casket?
[21] A: Yes, it was opened by the medical
[22] technicians.

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[1] Q: And who lifted the body out of the casket?
[2] A: The medical technicians, with the
[3] assistance of –
[4] As I recall, there was some question,
[5] because I think there were two or three of them
[6] taking it out of the casket and putting it onto the
[7] autopsy table, which, you know, had a little slant
[8] to it.
[9] And as I recall, we assisted in doing
[10] that, because they– I don't think the three of
[11] them managed–or two, three, or four of them
[12] managed to do it properly. So, we assisted in
[13] doing that.
[14] Q: Approximately how much time was there, as
[15] best you can recall, between the time that the
[16] ambulance arrived at the back door and the body was
[17] lifted onto the table in the morgue?
[18] A: Six–five, six, seven minutes maybe.
[19] Something of that vein.
[20] Q: Okay. What happened next?
[21] A: The physicians–who identified themselves
[22] as Dr. Hume and Dr. Boswell–asked us to leave,

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[1] because they wanted to take X-rays, and they wanted
[2] to take photographs of the body.
[3] Kellerman, Greer, and myself, and Jim
[4] Sibert went out, back into the anteroom. I'm
[5] calling it an anteroom. I don't know whether it
[6] was the morgue, or whatever it was. But I'm
[7] calling it the anteroom.
[8] As I recall, the doors were swinging
[9] doors. And there was a glass partition. So, you
[10] could see through the doors on over into the room
[11] itself. So, it was in our view at all times. We
[12] saw the pictures taken.
[13] Q: Were you in the room while the pictures
[14] were taken?
[15] A: No. Are we in this anteroom? We were
[16] not in the autopsy in the room itself. As I
[17] mentioned, we were asked to leave, which we did.
[18] I do have a listing, I believe, in my
[19] report of the amount of pictures taken and of the
[20] amount of X-rays taken. These were given to me by
[21] Boswell and by Finck–not Finck, but Boswell and
[22] Hume, as to the amount of pictures taken.

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[1] Q: When you say in your "report", you're
[2] referring to the FD 302 that's been marked as
[3] Exhibit 151 –
[4] A: Yes.
[5] Q: – is that correct?
[6] A: Yes. Yes, that's correct.
[7] Yeah, these are figures which I didn't
[8] make up myself. These were given to me by–let me
[9] see–by Humes. He was the one.
[10] The X-rays and the photographs, by the
[11] way, were not delivered–I mean, excuse me, were
[12] not developed there. The photographs were
[13] developed at a later date.
[14] We were told that we could have access to
[15] them. We did not ask for access to the X-rays.
[16] Though, we specifically asked for access to the
[17] photographs. Quite frankly, I couldn't read an
[18] X-ray, if I had to.
[19] Q: When you say you had–you did ask for
[20] access to the photographs –
[21] A: Yes.
[22] Q: – what do you mean by that?

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[1] A: Well, the photographs of the body.
[2] Because, as I mentioned, this was not–these
[3] photographs were not developed. We thought that
[4] would be, from the investigative point of view, a
[5] good thing to have it in our files–copies of the
[6] photographs taken by the hospital.
[7] They were turned over to Secret Service,
[8] as I understand it. In fact, I think I spoke to
[9] Kellerman, and asked him specifically–or was it
[10] Rowley, or Gerry Behn–if we could have copies of
[11] it. And they said, yes, we could, if we go
[12] official channels on them.
[13] Q: Did you ever request copies of the
[14] photographs?
[15] A: We did that evening; that we wanted copies
[16] of it. But they never were officially requested,
[17] as I know. In fact, I don't think we ever got
[18] them.
[19] Q: Okay.
[20] A: I mean, I'm just conjecturing on this now.
[21] I never saw them in the file.
[22] Q: Did you ever see any of the photographer–

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[1] photographer or photographers who were there?
[2] A: I saw them take pictures, yes.
[3] Q: Were you able to see them from the
[4] anteroom?
[5] A: Yes.
[6] Q: Was there a glass door or something, so
[7] you'd be able to see?
[8] A: I believe there was a partition in the
[9] swinging doors. I don't know whether it's that way
[10] today or not.
[11] Q: Okay. Do you remember how many
[12] photographers there were?
[13] A: No, I don't know. There was specifically
[14] one I know of. There might have been two. But I
[15] don't know whether there was one or two.
[16] I don't know whether one–you know, one
[17] could take these pictures. Although, there weren't
[18] too many pictures taken. I mean, but– No, I can't
[19] say whether it was one or two photographers there.
[20] Q: Do you recall seeing any of the cameras
[21] that they used?
[22] A: No. Well, I know that they had a camera,

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[1] but I don't know what type.
[2] Q: Okay. Is the term "large format" or "view
[3] camera"–are you familiar with those terms?
[4] A: No. The only thing I was familiar with
[5] was the speed graphic.
[6] Q: And you had seen speed graphics before?
[7] A: Yes. We had them in our work in those
[8] years.
[9] Q: Approximately how much time were the
[10] photographers and X-ray technicians in the morgue?
[11] A: Oh–gee, really, it's hard to tell. I'd
[12] say 10 minutes, 12 minutes. Something of that– It
[13] didn't take too long to take the pictures and the
[14] X-rays. We then went back in.
[15] And prior to any surgical procedures being
[16] made, the doctors said they wanted to wait till
[17] they got the results of the X-rays, so they could
[18] make a determination.
[19] They also wanted to wait for Colonel
[20] Finck, who I understood was from the Armed Forces
[21] Institute of Patholgy, to come over to assist in
[22] the autopsy, since I understand that he was a–the

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[1] only forensic pathologist in attendance at that
[2] time.
[3] Q: Did you see a tripod for the camera or any
[4] kind of lighting for photography?
[5] A: I might have, but I don't recall it.
[6] Q: After the photography was completed, you
[7] went back into the room; is that correct?
[8] A: That's correct.
[9] Q: And what was the next thing that happened
[10] in the autopsy room?
[11] A: Well, as I mentioned, we waited for the–for the
[12] pictures to be–I mean, for the X-rays to
[13] be developed.
[14] The autopsy room was partitioned off into
[15] the autopsy room itself, and then on one side of
[16] the autopsy room was a room where you would put the
[17] X-rays, and you could view the X-rays, and doctors
[18] made notes.
[19] And then on the other side of it over
[20] here, with the little corridor in between that went
[21] two or three feet, was a coffee machine–I mean,
[22] not a coffee machine, but coffee pot and various

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[1] other things such as that.
[2] The autopsy room also had a circular
[3] balcony–for want of a better word–where people
[4] could view it. People could view the autopsies.
[5] It was up about one or two steps, or something like
[6] that. They could view the autopsies going on–autopsy going
[7] on in the room.
[8] Q: Could you give me the best description of
[9] how the wounds on the body appeared prior to the
[10] time that any work was done by the doctors, either
[11] incisions or manipulation of the body –
[12] A: All right.
[13] Q: – starting with the head?
[14] A: Prior to turning the body over–okay–the
[15] first thing which struck you was the tracheotomy.
[16] And I've seen tracheotomies before, as I mentioned.
[17] But, specifically, Humes mentioned, "Oh, they
[18] performed a tracheotomy."
[19] Then you could not miss this wound here in
[20] the head.
[21] Q: Again, you're pointing to the back of your
[22] head?

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[1] A: Yes. It was–it was a massive wound.
[2] In fact–and this has been something of a
[3] discussion and people pointing at things–Humes
[4] said it was evident that there was some type of a
[5] surgical procedure which would have been done to
[6] the head area or something like that.
[7] These were not words that we were making
[8] up ourselves. These were words which were said by
[9] the doctor at that time.
[10] Now, as I understand it, that could have
[11] been cutting of the hair, or something to do with
[12] this–this thing in the back. But, certainly,
[13] there was no type of a mutilation. I could not
[14] make a determination what he meant by that, quite
[15] frankly.
[16] Q: Now, if you think of President Kennedy
[17] standing up straight, did you see any injury that
[18] was towards the front of his ear? So that would be
[19] the face –
[20] A: None.
[21] Q: – or the forehead, or anything in front
[22] of the ear.

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[1] A: His face was– Now, please don't get me
[2] wrong. I won't say better than yours. Better than
[3] mine–put it that way.
[4] No, it was fine. There was no mark on the
[5] skull up here. He was fine.
[6] Q: You're pointing to your forehead now?
[7] A: Yes. Nothing here –
[8] Q: Around your –
[9] A: – and nothing here.
[10] Q: Around the eyes.
[11] A: Nothing around the mouth or eyes.
[12] Certainly, nothing to any great extent beyond the
[13] ear or anything such as that.
[14] Q: When you say "beyond the ear", you mean
[15] forward from the ear –
[16] A: Yes.
[17] Q: – is that right?
[18] A: Yes, in this section here. As far as this
[19] whole skull section here was concerned –
[20] Q: You're pointing to your face.
[21] A: –there was no–no marks on that
[22] whatsoever.

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[1] Q: Okay.
[2] A: In fact, after the autopsy was over, the
[3] body looked like he was asleep. He could have been
[4] viewed by anybody.
[5] Mrs. Kennedy, as I understand it, did not
[6] want the body to be viewed, however, by the general
[7] public. Of course, she thought the trauma of the
[8] people seeing such a young, vibrant man with a
[9] young wife and young children, would be just too
[10] much for the people as a whole.
[11] So, that was one of the reasons, as I
[12] understand it, that she wanted the casket closed
[13] thereafter.
[14] Q: Were you able to tell whether there was
[15] any scalp that was missing from President Kennedy?
[16] A: There appeared to be– There was a flap
[17] here.
[18] Q: You're pointing again to the back of the
[19] head?
[20] A: Yes. There was a flap there. And I don't
[21] know whether the flap was up or down.
[22] Now, when you say scalp missing, I do know

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[1] that there was a portion missing, because a portion
[2] was taken into the autopsy room as the autopsy
[3] progressed which was found on the car floor, I
[4] believe, in Dallas by one of the Secret Service
[5] agents.
[6] And the doctors in Bethesda took a look at
[7] that, and, I think, measured it, and stated
[8] specifically that it came from this section of the
[9] head here.
[10] Q: Just so there isn't any confusion, I had
[11] asked specifically about scalp.
[12] A: Oh, no.
[13] Q: And were you referring to skull?
[14] A: I'm referring to the skull there, yeah.
[15] Q: Okay. Just with regard to scalp or the
[16] skin, did you-was it apparent whether any was
[17] missing or not?
[18] A: Well, you could tell that something-a
[19] trauma had occurred there, yes, from something
[20] which went in, because -
[21] I guess, the place where it went in would
[22] not be there, as far as the scalp was concerned.

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[1] But nothing to any great extent, as far as I was
[2] concerned.
[3] Q: Were you able to see- Again, this is
[4] before any procedures done on the body. Were you
[5] able to see into the cranium?
[6] A: Oh, yes.
[7] Q: And was brain still there?
[8] A: Yes, there was brain there.
[9] Q: Do you have any sense of how much brain
[10] was in the right hemisphere?
[11] A: No. I do know that it was not too much,
[12] because a large portion of the brain was sprayed
[13] onto the back of Kellerman and Greer. They still
[14] had it on their clothes. It certainly didn't come
[15] from-through the floor. It came -
[16] Q: Sure.
[17] A: - I mean, evidently- But they did have a
[18] large section.
[19] I know later-afterwards, that there was
[20] not too much of the brain left. And it was taken
[21] out, and it was put in a white jar.
[22] Q: Were you present when that happened, when

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[1] the brain was removed?
[2] A: Yes, I was.
[3] Q: Okay. We'll come back to that in a
[4] moment.
[5] Were you able to tell-again, before any
[6] procedures were performed-whether there was any
[7] skull missing? And I understand you've talked
[8] about a piece that came in later. But by your
[9] first observation, were you able to identify -
[10] A: No, not very quickly. But we knew there
[11] was a hole there, but whether- What was missing,
[12] what was not-I don't know.
[13] Q: Okay. At some point, did you see X-rays
[14] that were taken -
[15] A: Yes, I did.
[16] Q: About how much time did you spend looking
[17] at the X-rays?
[18] A: I looked at the X-rays just as long as the
[19] physicians looked at the X-rays, because we didn't
[20] want them to do any procedures without us being at
[21] that-there at that time.
[22] So, when they finished with the X-rays and

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[1] pointing out different things, pointing out the
[2] hole here, and pointing out other things such as
[3] that, we left-"we" being Kellerman, Greer, and
[4] myself, and Sibert-left with them to go back the
[5] short distance to the body.
[6] Q: You've referred to the fact that
[7] photographs and X-rays were taken before any
[8] procedures were done on the body.
[9] A: That's correct.
[10] Q: Was there any subsequent time when
[11] additional X-rays or photographs were taken, to the
[12] best of your knowledge?
[13] A: No, because if they had been taken, they
[14] would have requested that we go out of the room
[15] again, as they did the first time. And that we
[16] move- No request was made. And I didn't see any
[17] other photographs being taken, or any other X-rays
[18] being taken.
[19] Q: Okay. Do you remember approximately what
[20] time the first incision was made?
[21] A: I think it was about 8:05. I believe
[22] that's what it is. It's in my report, I believe.

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[1] Q: In the report when you refer to the first
[2] incision, what do you mean by "the first incision"?
[3] Is that on the head, or on the body, or -
[4] A: No, that would be the V-the V-type
[5] incision which they make for autopsies.
[6] Q: And was that the first type of
[7] manipulation or work on the body, the V section -
[8] A: I believe it was.
[9] Q: - or Y section?
[10] A: I believe it was.
[11] Q: Could we start with what you saw performed
[12] on the head? So, I'm putting the V-the Y section
[13] or V section aside, and just going to the head.
[14] What procedures were done that you observed?
[15] A: I know they-they came to this particular
[16] section here. Okay? And I think there was a flap
[17] there, if I'm not mistaken. And they pulled it on
[18] back, and you could really see the-the massive
[19] thing went in there.
[20] Looking at the X-rays, you could see that
[21] there were about 40-some-odd pieces of either shell
[22] fragments or bone fragments in the skull cavity

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[1] itself. And they took out two pieces of it; one
[2] from in back of the eyes, I believe, and one from
[3] the back of the sinus. But they took out two
[4] pieces.
[5] But there were many, many other sections
[6] in there-pieces of various bones. Those two
[7] pieces, by the way, they took out and they put into
[8] a little jar.
[9] Now, I know there's been some controversy
[10] also about- Because we saw them put into a jar,
[11] and Jim and I signed for that jar. We signed for a
[12] missile. That was exactly what the Navy
[13] terminology is for a bullet-anything which flies
[14] through the air is a missile.
[15] It's changed since then, because they now
[16] have the guided missiles and things such as that.
[17] But at that time, anything which went through the
[18] air was a missile. And that's the way the wrote it
[19] up, and that's the way we signed for it.
[20] Q: When you say that you signed a receipt for
[21] that, I'd like to show you a document marked
[22] Exhibit No. 69, and ask you whether that's a

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[1] reproduction of the exhibit that you signed?
[2] A: Yes. And it says a missile. There were
[3] two pieces of it there. But that is correct, yes.
[4] Q: Did you sign any receipts other than the
[5] one represented by Exhibit No. 69?
[6] A: No, sir.
[7] Q: Could you describe the jar that you said
[8] that the –
[9] A: Glass.
[10] Q: – fragments were put into?
[11] A: It was a glass jar.
[12] Q: Okay.
[13] A: I think there was some cotton in it,
[14] although I'm not positive.
[15] MR. GUNN: I'd like to go off the record
[16] for a minute –
[17] THE WITNESS: Sure.
[18] MR. GUNN: –while we get a couple of
[19] exhibits to show you, if we could.
[20] THE WITNESS: Certainly.
[21] MR. GUNN: We can take a break if you
[22] want.

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[1] [Recess.]
[2] BY MR. GUNN:
[3] Q: Mr. O'Neill, a moment ago –
[4] A: Yes.
[5] Q: – you said that you had had an
[6] opportunity to examine the X-rays during the
[7] autopsy; is that correct?
[8] A: Now, when you say "examine the X-rays", I
[9] had an opportunity to view the X-rays.
[10] Q: All right.
[11] A: I'm not a technician or– So, I'm not
[12] sure. I mean –
[13] Q: Okay. But you–you saw them?
[14] A: I saw them, yes.
[15] Q: Okay, that's fine.
[16] What I'd like to do is have a few of them
[17] shown to you, and ask you whether you can recognize
[18] them as having been the X-rays that you observed on
[19] the night of November 22nd.
[20] [Discussion off the record.]
[21] MR. GUNN: Why don't we start with X-ray
[22] No. 1, which is described as an anterior/posterior

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[1] view of the skull, slightly heat damaged.
[2] BY MR. GUNN:
[3] Q: Mr. O'Neill, if you'd like to come over
[4] and take a look at that.
[5] A: Oh, surely.
[6] Q: Mr. O'Neill, are you able to identify
[7] whether this is an X-ray that you observed on the
[8] night of November 22nd?
[9] A: There is– Now, once again, I'm not a
[10] technician. Is this a picture from the rear?
[11] Q: This is looking, presumably, from the
[12] face–from the nose, back to the back of the head.
[13] So, as if you were looking at the body from the
[14] front.
[15] A: Well, if I'm looking at the body from the
[16] front, I mean, it seems that the wound is over
[17] here, rather than over here. Is it upside down or
[18] something?
[19] Q: No. This would be the left side of the
[20] face that I'm pointing to here. The right side
[21] is –
[22] A: Okay. I– In other words, looking

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[1] straight into it?
[2] Q: Looking straight at it, as if you were
[3] looking at the body from above.
[4] A: Okay. Now, I don't see–you know, the
[5] eyes over here.
[6] Q: Eye socket there and there.
[7] A: Where's the eye socket? Here?
[8] Q: Right here.
[9] A: That's one eye socket? And this is the
[10] other eye socket?
[11] Q: Right. So, this is the right eye; the
[12] left eye.
[13] A: Well, then, explain to me, please. Is
[14] this supposed to be where the eye is gone?
[15] Q: Now, again, this is an X-ray. So, you're
[16] not going to be able to see the eye.
[17] A: Yeah.
[18] Q: That won't be apparent.
[19] A: But this indicates that the–it would seem
[20] to me, that the eye is gone, and that this is–that
[21] whole section is gone.
[22] Is that correct, or am I wrong in

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[1] interpreting it that way?
[2] Q: Well, again, I can't interpret them,
[3] either, because I'm not qualified to do this. But
[4] in the X-ray, your eye–the eye is not going to be
[5] obviously visible. So, you shouldn't draw any–make any
[6] inference –
[7] A: It would seem that that would be, yeah,
[8] similar to it. Yes.
[9] Q: Can you see the mark here that I'm
[10] pointing to, which seems to be almost a circular
[11] shape, a white spot that would be–look as though
[12] it's in the right side of the face, but the left
[13] side of the X-ray?
[14] A: Yes. I can see a mark there, yes. But I
[15] can't say where it came from, or what it is, or
[16] anything, so– But I can see the mark, yes.
[17] Q: Okay. The white circular –
[18] A: Mm-hmm.
[19] Q: Do you remember seeing that mark at the
[20] night of the autopsy?
[21] A: I can't swear that I do.
[22] Q: Okay.

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[1] MR. GUNN: Let's try the –
[2] THE WITNESS: Whether I do or do not. I
[3] mean, it's– It would appear that– I can't swear
[4] to it. Put it that way.
[5] Q: Okay. The question would have been: If
[6] you recall that, did you recall any discussion that
[7] may have taken place –
[8] A: No.
[9] Q: – during the night of the autopsy about
[10] that?
[11] A: No, I do not recall that.
[12] Q: Okay.
[13] MR. GUNN: Could we see X-ray No. 2, the
[14] right lateral view of the skull with two angle
[15] lines overdrawn on the film.
[16] BY MR. GUNN:
[17] Q: Mr. O'Neill, do you recognize the autopsy–or the
[18] X-ray that's in front of you now as being
[19] an X-ray that you saw on the night of the autopsy?
[20] A: Well, let me ask a question now before I–
[21] What is this supposed to be here, please?
[22] Q: Okay. Now, this is towards the front of

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[1] the face, so– The teeth down here at the bottom.
[2] The nose would be here. Here's the head.
[3] Now, people may disagree about what the
[4] significance of that is. And I, certainly, am not
[5] qualified to comment on what the dark space is that
[6] you're pointing to towards the front of the head.
[7] And I'm not asking you to interpret that, just as I
[8] can't interpret it.
[9] A: It would appear to be something. But if–
[10] I'm saying "if". I have to qualify.
[11] If this is supposed to be an indication
[12] that this whole section of the front was missing,
[13] then, I've never seen this picture before–that
[14] autopsy before.
[15] Q: Okay. When –
[16] A: I mean, that particular X-ray before.
[17] Q: Now, once again, neither of us can comment
[18] on the significance of that, whether that–what
[19] that would mean.
[20] But the question for you would be: Do you
[21] recall, on the night of the autopsy, seeing an
[22] X-ray that had a dark space?

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[1] A: No, I don't recall that. To the best of
[2] my recollection. Not that one, no.
[3] Q: I'd like to draw your attention to some
[4] flecks of white that appear across the top of the
[5] skull pointing, it seems, down from the top left,
[6] coming down towards the right to some extent. And,
[7] again, we're talking about the top fifth or sixth
[8] of the skull, as well as some other isolated white
[9] flecks in there.
[10] Do you recall having seen those on the
[11] X-rays the night of the autopsy?
[12] A: I recall seeing some on the night of the
[13] autopsy. Whether it's on this particular X-ray or
[14] not, I don't recall. But– Because Hume pointed it
[15] out, and he started to count them. And that's how
[16] we got the figure of 40.
[17] Q: Do the flecks that you see here in this
[18] X-ray look roughly similar to what you saw on the
[19] night of the autopsy?
[20] A: They would appear to be.
[21] Q: Does the direction of them or the grouping
[22] of them seem any different than you recall from the

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[1] night of the autopsy?
[2] A: I cannot recall.
[3] Q: Do you see what appear to be a line
[4] consistent with where my page is now? There and
[5] there. Do you see those lines now?
[6] A: I see a line here.
[7] Q: Yes, on the –
[8] A: Yes, I certainly do.
[9] Q: On the X-ray?
[10] A: Yes, I certainly do.
[11] Q: Do you recall those lines being on any –
[12] A: No.
[13] Q: – X-rays the night of the autopsy?
[14] A: If there were any lines such as that, they
[15] were not pointed out to me. I don't recall seeing
[16] those, no.
[17] Now, that's strange. Could you tell me
[18] what they indicate? I see this section here is
[19] sort of like a square. From here to here to there.
[20] No, I don't recall that at all.
[21] If that's a X-ray of the skull, I don't
[22] recall those things being there.

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[1] Q: Do you recall –
[2] A: I mean, it has been 50 years ago–or 38
[3] years ago.
[4] Q: Do you recall seeing any holes in the
[5] X-rays that you saw?
[6] A: Not as I understand it. As I recall,
[7] there was sort of beveling in. In other words,
[8] there wasn't a complete hole as that way. No, I
[9] don't recall a complete hole. No.
[10] Q: Do you recall the beveling as appearing on
[11] the X-ray?
[12] A: Yes. There was a–a beveling in, and then
[13] there was a–as I understand it later–on the piece
[14] which was brought up from Dallas, sort of a
[15] beveling out, which would indicate that something
[16] went in and something came on out.
[17] Q: And you recall that beveling, again,
[18] appearing on an X-ray?
[19] A: Yes.
[20] Q: Is that right? Okay.
[21] MR. GUNN: Could we see No. 3, which has
[22] been described as lateral view of the skull.

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[1] THE WITNESS: I'll be very frank. That's
[2] the first time I've ever tried to explained an
[3] X-ray. My– I know I'm not –
[4] BY MR. GUNN:
[5] Q: Mr. O'Neill, do you recall having
[6] previously seen the X-ray that's now present before
[7] you?
[8] A: I recall seeing something similar to that.
[9] I don't know whether that's the exact one or not.
[10] Q: Okay.
[11] A: Quite frankly, the reason that I'm
[12] hesitating in saying something or other concerning
[13] specifically– This puzzles me here.
[14] If that's supposed to indicate–
[15] Qualifying it. If this is supposed to indicate
[16] that that was missing, then, no. That's not an
[17] X-ray of what I saw.
[18] Q: You're referring again to the very dark
[19] space towards the front of the face –
[20] A: Yes.
[21] Q: – that appears to be –
[22] A: Yes.

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[1] Q: – forehead area?
[2] A: Yes.
[3] Q: Once again, you should not think of that
[4] being black necessarily indicates missing bone or
[5] not missing bone. That would be something that an
[6] X-ray –
[7] A: Technician.
[8] Q: – technician would need to interpret.
[9] That could signify something else.
[10] A: But I do recall seeing X-rays similar to
[11] this with the, you know, various flecks in
[12] different places, as I mentioned on the other one.
[13] MR. GUNN: Okay. Could we look at X-ray
[14] No. 4?
[15] THE WITNESS: I'm afraid I'm not being
[16] much help to you on these X-rays.
[17] MR. GUNN: That's–that's fine.
[18] BY MR. GUNN:
[19] Q: You referred to pictures of fragments that
[20] came from Dallas.
[21] A: Yes.
[22] Q: Do you recall that, a minute ago?

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[1] A: Yes.
[2] Q: Do you remember having seen the X-ray that
[3] I'm showing you now–that appears, at least, to be
[4] X-rays of fragments–at all?
[5] A: No.
[6] Q: You didn't see those?
[7] A: No.
[8] Q: Did you see any other X-rays like this of
[9] fragments?
[10] A: I saw no X-rays of any fragments, as such.
[11] The only X-rays I saw were the X-rays taken of the
[12] head at the time. And at that time, to my
[13] knowledge, there were no X-rays taken of any
[14] fragments.
[15] Q: Okay. Do you recall there having been any
[16] X-rays of any other parts of the body, such as the
[17] torso, legs, arms?
[18] A: As I understand, it was a full body
[19] X-rays.
[20] Q: Did you see those on the night of November
[21] 22nd?
[22] A: Well, if you show me something, maybe I'll

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[1] be able to refresh my memory, yes.
[2] Q: Okay.
[3] MR. GUNN: Could we take a look at X-ray
[4] No. 8?
[5] THE WITNESS: Quite frankly, the
[6] physicians were more concerned with the X-rays of
[7] the head than the X-rays of the body.
[8] MR. GUNN: X-ray No. 8 is described as an
[9] anterior/posterior view of the right shoulder and
[10] right chest.
[11] BY MR. GUNN:
[12] Q: Just in a general way, do you remember
[13] seeing any X-rays such as this on the night of the
[14] autopsy?
[15] A: I believe I do.
[16] Q: Okay.
[17] A: Now, we're talking about the right
[18] shoulder. And this is going to be the shoulder
[19] over here?
[20] Q: That's correct.
[21] Do you remember any discussion among the
[22] autopsy physicians regarding the bullet wound in

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[1] the neck?
[2] A: Now, if you're asking me–and let me
[3] qualify this answer, if I may–if there was any
[4] discussion whatsoever concerning the bullet wound
[5] in the neck? There was never any discussion
[6] concerning any bullet wound in the neck, because,
[7] as far as they were concerned, there was no bullet
[8] wound in the neck.
[9] There was a bullet wound in this upper
[10] back, the right-hand side. And to my knowledge and
[11] to my recollection, they never discussed any other
[12] bullet wounds, other than this massive one here –
[13] Q: In the head.
[14] A: – and that one in the upper back.
[15] Q: Okay. Do you recall any discussion
[16] related to the trajectory or path of the back
[17] bullet –
[18] A: Yes.
[19] Q: – in regards to X-rays?
[20] A: No, not in regards to X-rays. But there
[21] was discussion concerning the path of the bullet
[22] which went into the back here. And Humes actually

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[1] was measuring it. I think it might be Hume,
[2] possibly Finck–were actually measuring the angle,
[3] supposedly where the bullet came on into the back.
[4] Q: Okay.
[5] A: They were not–in my presence or in
[6] anybody else's presence, then–discussing that in
[7] relation to anything which might show up on an
[8] X-ray.
[9] Q: Okay. So, you don't remember any
[10] discussion of X-rays of the path of wounds, or
[11] attempting to locate a stray bullet somewhere in
[12] the body?
[13] A: No. Let me –
[14] Q: With the X-rays.
[15] A: Let me–let me think now.
[16] No. Because if they had been discussing
[17] that, and if there had been a path through the–you
[18] know, through here on out through the neck, they
[19] certainly would not have told us specifically that
[20] there was no point of exit. Because I would assume
[21] that an X-ray would show something like that.
[22] Q: One of the questions would be –

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[1] A: There was no discussion.
[2] Q: Without respect to any path in the neck,
[3] was there any discussion about a bullet going into
[4] the back and maybe being lodged in the rib cage –
[5] A: No.
[6] Q: – or somewhere else in the torso?
[7] A: No. No.
[8] Q: Okay.
[9] A: No.
[10] MR. GUNN: I think that's it for the
[11] X-rays.
[12] THE WITNESS: Well, if there was a
[13] discussion, I didn't hear it. Put it that way.
[14] BY MR. GUNN:
[15] Q: Okay. Mr. O'Neill –
[16] A: Yes.
[17] Q: I'd like to show you an exhibit that you–
[18] You can stay seated, if you wish.
[19] I'd like to show you an exhibit that is
[20] Commission Exhibit 843, and ask you whether this is
[21] the jar that you previously made reference to?
[22] A: Oh.

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[1] Q: If you wouldn't mind putting those gloves
[2] on.
[3] A: Not at all.
[4] Q: Just a few minutes ago, you referred to a
[5] jar that some fragments were placed into. And I
[6] want to ask if you can identify the jar you're
[7] about to be shown –
[8] A: Well –
[9] Q: – as that one in which the fragments
[10] were –
[11] A: You know what my answer is.
[12] Q: – placed?
[13] A: If this is not the jar, it's very similar
[14] to the–to the jar, yes. I don't know whether my
[15] initials are on it or not.
[16] Q: Could you look at the top of the jar, and
[17] see if you see any initials scratched into the top?
[18] A: Oh, there it is. FXON, yeah. Okay, fine.
[19] Yep.
[20] Q: Do you recognize any of the other markings
[21] on the lid of 843?
[22] A: Yeah. Frazier is on there, too. Frazier

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[1] is the–the agent who we turned this over to. I
[2] thought that we had signed something on here.
[3] But that would not, from an evidentiary
[4] point of view, necessarily mean that this is the
[5] jar, because you could have taken the top off and
[6] put another jar underneath it.
[7] Q: Sure. You would assume, though, that the–at
[8] least, the lid would be the same?
[9] A: Yes, that is correct.
[10] Q: Okay. All right.
[11] A: Doggone. First time I saw that in a long
[12] time.
[13] Q: Mr. O'Neill, I'd like to return to the
[14] question about an X-ray for a moment. And I'd like
[15] to show you Exhibit 151, which, once again, is the
[16] 302, and draw your attention to the second
[17] paragraph–or the first full paragraph on page five
[18] of that report.
[19] Could you read that to yourself, please.
[20] A: [Examining document.] Now, this–this–
[21] Let me qualify something, if I may.
[22] I'm Francis X. O'Neill. There was a

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[1] Francis C. O'Neill in the office, also. And this
[2] indicates that this was Francis C. O'Neill, not
[3] Francis X. O'Neill.
[4] Q: Now, you're referring to the very top
[5] markings –
[6] A: Yes.
[7] Q: – on the page. So that along the top,
[8] the header–there's BA89-30, then FCO/JWS.
[9] A: Yes. Let me look at something else, if I
[10] may.
[11] Q: If I can show you something.
[12] A: Go ahead.
[13] Q: On the other pages of Exhibit No. 151, in
[14] the header, there's an FXO.
[15] A: XO, that's right.
[16] Q: And, so, do you see the fact that there is
[17] an FCO –
[18] A: Yes.
[19] Q: – on page five as being significant, or
[20] does that –
[21] A: Well, I don't know until– I have to
[22] check –

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[1] Q: Sure.
[2] A: – what I have for page five on this one
[3] here. [Examining document.]
[4] Nope. It would be the same, then. Okay.
[5] And I see I crossed it out and made FXO up here
[6] myself. This was a copy of a– So, it's FXO.
[7] Okay.
[8] Now, to get back to that one specific –
[9] Q: Back to–back to the paragraph.
[10] A: Okay, yes. [Examining document.]
[11] All right, yes.
[12] Q: Do you see the portion of that paragraph
[13] that says, "Immediately this section of skull was
[14] X-rayed. At which time, it was determined by
[15] Dr. Humes that one corner..." And then the
[16] paragraph goes on.
[17] Do you see that reference to an X-ray of
[18] the section of the skull?
[19] A: No, I don't believe. Now, maybe we're
[20] looking at the –
[21] "Immediately this section..." All right.
[22] I do see that now, yes.

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[1] Q: Does that help refresh your recollection
[2] whether the sections of the skull that came from
[3] Dallas were X-rayed?
[4] A: It certainly does.
[5] Q: Do you now have a recollection as to
[6] whether you, yourself, observed the X-ray of the
[7] fragment from Dallas?
[8] A: I most probably did, yes, because I would
[9] not have put it in there, if I didn't see it.
[10] Q: Okay.
[11] A: Now, that was 30-some-odd years ago. And
[12] this does refresh my memory, as you've showed it to
[13] me on there.
[14] Q: Do you have any recollection now as to how
[15] many fragments were X-rayed separately from the
[16] skull?
[17] A: No, I do not.
[18] Q: Do you remember how many fragments were
[19] brought into the room?
[20] A: I believe there were two, but I don't
[21] recall whether there were more than that or not.
[22] On that, just refresh me. You know, I

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[1] never really specifically looked at that one
[2] section there, as you mentioned.
[3] Q: Mr. O'Neill, earlier, you made reference
[4] to the fact that you had spoken with members of the
[5] House Select Committee on Assassinations.
[6] A: Yes.
[7] Q: Do you recall that?
[8] A: Yes.
[9] Q: I'd like to show you a document marked
[10] Exhibit 86.
[11] A: Okay.
[12] Q: I'm going to hand you a document we have
[13] marked Exhibit No. 86, which I will state for you
[14] came from the records of the House Select Committee
[15] on Assassinations.
[16] What I'd also like to do is to show you
[17] what we understand to be the original of Exhibit
[18] 86, which is not marked for the purposes of this
[19] deposition –
[20] A: Okay.
[21] Q: – but which is the original. My first
[22] question to you will be, in reference to the two

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[1] sheets of yellow paper –
[2] Again, you're seeing the originals here.
[3] A: Mm-hmm.
[4] Q: – whether you recognize these two yellow
[5] sheets of paper that contain diagrams on them?
[6] A: I've seen pictures of this particular
[7] diagram in various publications. And, yes, this is
[8] my handwriting. And this is on January 10th of
[9] 1978.
[10] Boy, it took them a long time to get stuff
[11] out. I have a letter here from October 18th of
[12] '78, when they're just getting around to making the
[13] changes which I requested.
[14] And this was back in January, so it took a
[15] long time. God.
[16] Q: A moment ago, you said you've seen
[17] various –
[18] A: Sure.
[19] Q: – representations of this.
[20] A: Yes.
[21] Q: I'd like to show you now a document marked
[22] Exhibit 1, and ask you if that is the document that

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[1] you're referring to as having seen reproduced?
[2] A: Yes. I've seen it reproduced in various
[3] magazines. In fact, it's in this magazine here.
[4] Q: Okay. And you're referring to the book –
[5] A: I mean, that particular book there.
[6] Q: – the book, "Killing of a President", by
[7] Robert J. Groden.
[8] A: Mm-hmm. This, to my recollection now, is
[9] a– As I understand it, this was similar–or was
[10] one of the original ones made by Humes.
[11] Q: Yes. You're referring to the autopsy face
[12] sheet, Exhibit No. 1.
[13] A: Yeah. And this, as I recall it, too, was
[14] the approximate position of the bullet wound or–for want of
[15] a better word–a wound. And not
[16] anywhere up here.
[17] Q: Okay. And you're referring to, on Exhibit
[18] 1, the right diagram. And you're pointing to the
[19] shoulder wound; is that correct.
[20] A: Yes, I am.
[21] Q: Okay.
[22] A: And I'm glad you said "the shoulder

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[1] wound".
[2] Q: What I'd like to do is now come back to
[3] the document that is No. 86 for the deposition,
[4] although you're referring, in fact, to the yellow
[5] originals. Previously, you said that you had seen
[6] these diagrams reproduced in the literature.
[7] A: In different publications. That's
[8] correct, yeah.
[9] Q: Just so that there isn't any confusion
[10] about this, I want to make sure that we're not
[11] talking about the actual diagrams that appear on
[12] Exhibit 86, but that you're, in fact, referring to
[13] the diagrams in Exhibit 1; is that right?
[14] A: That's true. And this one I saw, too,
[15] which, as I understand it, is just a drawing. I
[16] forget who made it–made the–my–in my presence or
[17] not. These over here.
[18] Q: Right. So, what you're seeing on Exhibit
[19] 86 are, in a sense, re-drawings of those figures
[20] that appear on Exhibit 1?
[21] A: That is correct.
[22] Q: Okay. Now, did you, in fact, see yourself

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[1] the exhibits in No. 86, the line drawings? And is
[2] that your signature on –
[3] A: That's my signature, yes.
[4] Q: And did you make any marks yourself on the
[5] first page of the drawings in Exhibit 86?
[6] A: I don't recall that, no.
[7] Q: You don't recall whether Mr. Purdy or some
[8] other person showed you –
[9] A: Maybe– yes, maybe– no, let me go back
[10] there again.
[11] Maybe Purdy or somebody might have just
[12] given us the blank ones, and then said, "Put down
[13] there what you saw." That might have occurred.
[14] Q: Let me show you the second of the two
[15] pages of diagrams, and ask you whether that –
[16] A: Okay. That's my writing there. That's my
[17] writing here. I believe it is, yes.
[18] Q: And you're referring to the writing in the
[19] top, left-hand part –
[20] A: That's right.
[21] Q: – of the page that says "entry and exit"?
[22] A: And also that mark down here. And also

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[1] these. No, I never saw these before. That's very
[2] good.
[3] Q: You mean you have not seen them since –
[4] A: Since I did it, or since –
[5] Q: – since you made them?
[6] A: That's correct, yes.
[7] Q: Okay. And do those drawings accurately
[8] reflect your understanding of where the injuries
[9] were to President Kennedy?
[10] A: As best as I can recollect, yes.
[11] Now, there's something here. I don't
[12] recall putting that mark there.
[13] Q: And you're referring to a –
[14] A: I don't know what it is.
[15] Q: – a very small mark that is on the neck.
[16] A: That's right.
[17] Q: Okay. Below the mark on the neck, there
[18] is something. It looks like several lines,
[19] somewhat like an X.
[20] A: Down here. That's correct.
[21] Q: And that's what your understanding is –
[22] A: That's correct.

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[1] Q: – the entry wound in either the shoulder
[2] or the back?
[3] A: That's correct.
[4] Q: Now, on the front of the neck–again, this
[5] is the upper drawing on Exhibit 86–is a word. Can
[6] you tell me what that word says?
[7] A: Sure, "trac."
[8] Q: Trac.?
[9] A: Tracheotomy, yeah.
[10] Q: Trac.?
[11] A: Mm-hmm.
[12] Q: And that there's a mark next to the neck,
[13] which shows–on the neck, but shows where the trac.
[14] incision is?
[15] A: Certainly. Now, these are certainly out
[16] of all proportion. I mean, but they're just–you
[17] know, the neck. And you put it there. And that's
[18] it. Yes.
[19] Q: Okay. If you were to make marks today or
[20] attempt to indicate where your understanding is of
[21] the wounds to the body, would you make them
[22] substantially different from the ones that appear

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[1] on Exhibit 86?
[2] A: No, no. My recollection would be just as
[3] good then. In fact– Well, just as good then as it
[4] is now. To the best of my recollection, these are–once
[5] again–approximate.
[6] Q: Sure, understood.
[7] A: Certainly, nothing up higher–like that,
[8] no.
[9] Q: And you're referring to the shoulder
[10] wound –
[11] A: Yes.
[12] Q: – when you say "nothing up higher"?
[13] A: If anything, lower. But certainly nothing
[14] higher than that.
[15] Q: Okay.
[16] A: Now, we were on this document here?
[17] Q: Excuse me?
[18] A: Now, we were on this document here, or –
[19] Q: Yes. That's the one we were just
[20] referring to.
[21] A: Oh, I see.
[22] Q: This is the exhibit –

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[1] A: Oh, okay.
[2] Q: – that will be to this deposition. We
[3] were showing you the original that's in the
[4] Archives.
[5] A: Fine, okay.
[6] Q: We just brought it out of the Archives to
[7] let you see the original.
[8] A: Okay.
[9] Q: Mr. O'Neill, I'd like to show you a
[10] document that we have marked Exhibit No. MD 47,
[11] which appears on its face to have a cover sheet and
[12] a letter, dated November 8th, 1978, from Francis X.
[13] O'Neill to –
[14] A: To Purdy.
[15] Q: – Donald A. Purdy. And attached or
[16] behind the cover sheet is what appears to be an
[17] affidavit, consisting of eight pages, that appears
[18] to have your signature –
[19] A: Signature on the back of it, yeah.
[20] Q: Let me just ask you, in the first
[21] instance, whether –
[22] A: That's my signature.

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[1] Q: – if this is, in fact, a fair
[2] reproduction of a letter that you sent to Andy
[3] Purdy and an affidavit?
[4] A: Okay. Let me see here.
[5] [Examining document.] That would appear
[6] to be the one I signed.
[7] Q: Okay. Mr. O'Neill, I'd like to draw your
[8] attention to page five and six of your affidavit.
[9] Again, that is Exhibit 47 to this deposition.
[10] A: Okay, page five.
[11] Q: Could you read down at the bottom of the
[12] page? I'll read it for the record, as well.
[13] "During the interview on January 10th,
[14] 1978 –"
[15] A: Well, wait a minute. I've lost the– This
[16] is page five?
[17] Q: Bottom of page five.
[18] A: It says, "I do not see..." Oh, down here.
[19] Bottom of the page, okay.
[20] Q: The very last sentence of the page.
[21] A: Mm-hmm.
[22] Q: "During the interview on January 10th,

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[1] 1978, I disagreed with Dr. Boswell's depiction of
[2] the location of the back (thorax) wound which
[3] Dr. Boswell had drawn on a diagram during an
[4] interview with this committee in the fall of 1977."
[5] Do you see that portion?
[6] A: I certainly do.
[7] Q: Could you explain to me what your
[8] recollection is of that, or to what you were
[9] referring with that statement?
[10] A: Because I had heard–I had seen,
[11] supposedly, drawings from some publication where
[12] Boswell made drawings or alluded to the bullet
[13] wound in the back being not actually in the back,
[14] but in the back of the neck. And I disagreed
[15] thoroughly with that.
[16] As I recall it, without this other stuff,
[17] the wounds, I think, I drew on these particular
[18] things were as I saw them.
[19] Q: When you say "on these particular things",
[20] you're referring to Exhibit No. –
[21] A: Yes, that's correct.
[22] Q: – 86?

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[1] A: Mm-hmm.
[2] Q: I would like to show you an original
[3] document that– For the purposes of this
[4] deposition, we're having a copy of it marked as
[5] Exhibit MD 159.
[6] So, I'm putting our exhibit in front of
[7] you, along with the original of the document that
[8] is in the Archives, and ask you whether this is the
[9] document to which you were referring on pages five
[10] and six of Exhibit No. 47?
[11] A: Yes, I believe it was.
[12] [Examining document.] When was this
[13] dated, by the way? April 16th of '77.
[14] Q: August 16th –
[15] A: I mean, August 16th of '77.
[16] Q: – 1977.
[17] A: And this is what? Of '78? Okay.
[18] [Examining document.] Yes.
[19] Q: I'd like to show you–now we're looking at
[20] the original of Exhibit No. 159–where there is a
[21] pencil mark that appears to be between the two
[22] lines that are on the neck –

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[1] A: Yes.
[2] Q: – on the figure on the right.
[3] A: Yes.
[4] Q: Is it your understanding now that the
[5] pencil mark that you see there is what Dr. Boswell
[6] had marked as the entrance wound in the back of the
[7] neck?
[8] A: It's not my understanding that that is his
[9] marking or not his marking. And I don't know what
[10] that pencil wound is supposed to indicate and who
[11] put it there.
[12] Q: Okay. If you could then, once again,
[13] refer to the sentence on the last –
[14] A: [Examining document.] All right. Well,
[15] then, I would have to say that this was made by
[16] Dr. Boswell. So, naturally, I would disagree with
[17] that.
[18] Q: Okay. And, so, the pencil marking that
[19] you're seeing here, at least, is your understanding
[20] of what Dr. –
[21] A: This could allude to that.
[22] Q: Okay.

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[1] A: That is correct.
[2] Q: And, so, the pencil marking you–by your
[3] own recollection of the night of the autopsy is in
[4] the –
[5] A: The pencil notation on it by Dr. James
[6] Boswell, yes. And, evidently, I was alluding to
[7] this when I wrote this, or when this was –
[8] Q: So, you're alluding to Dr. Boswell's
[9] pencil marking on Exhibit No. 159 –
[10] A: Yes.
[11] Q: – when you wrote the sentence that –
[12] A: But I can't understand why he would do
[13] something like that, really, because that's not
[14] where it was in any size, shape, or form–fashion.
[15] And I think that Jim would probably bear me out,
[16] too–Sibert.
[17] Do we have X-rays–I mean, not X-rays, but
[18] photographs?
[19] Q: Yes, we'll be looking at photographs.
[20] A: Oh, all right. Fine.
[21] To my recollection, my memory is correct.
[22] Unless the photographs are backward.

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[1] Q: Earlier in the deposition, we referred to
[2] your observation of the brain being removed during
[3] the course of the autopsy. Do you recall that?
[4] A: Yes.
[5] Q: Could you explain to me what your best
[6] recollection is of how that procedure took place?
[7] A: Gee, really, I can't when you get right
[8] down to it. Not being a medical person, I'm basing
[9] the information–I'm saying this by the doctors are
[10] saying, "We are doing this, and we are doing that."
[11] And following along on their particular protocol.
[12] I believe it was still attached to
[13] something which was in the back, up here. Maybe
[14] back of the–of the–oh, what do they call this–spinal
[15] column or something like that. The brain
[16] sitting on top of that general area.
[17] As I mentioned to you before, I had seen
[18] other X-rays where they had taken brains out, and
[19] it was attached –
[20] Q: Other X-rays, or other autopsies?
[21] A: I mean, other autopsies where it was
[22] attached.

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[1] Q: Where the brain is attached to the corpus
[2] callosum?
[3] A: Yes, it would have been. Yes.
[4] I believe that– Now, once again, too,
[5] this is just a portion of it, because the rest of
[6] it was–you know, really gone. And it was a very,
[7] very large portion of it, to my recollection.
[8] Q: Okay. When the brain is removed, do you–
[9] When the brain is removed, what happened with the
[10] brain itself?
[11] A: They measured it. They weighed it. And
[12] then they put it into a jar.
[13] Q: Do you recall how much it weighed?
[14] A: No, I do not. If I had recalled that or
[15] if they had told me at that particular time, I
[16] would have recorded it.
[17] Q: Do you have any sense of what percentage
[18] of the brain was missing at the time it was removed
[19] from the cranium?
[20] A: I'm saying this now, 38 years afterwards
[21] or something like that–33 years afterwards, 34
[22] years afterwards. It was– Oh, well more than half

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[1] of the brain was missing.
[2] Q: Okay.
[3] A: To my recollection, now.
[4] Q: Now, the brain typically is in two
[5] hemispheres, a right hemisphere –
[6] A: Right.
[7] Q: – and a left hemisphere. If half the
[8] brain were missing, that would suggest, perhaps,
[9] the right hemisphere is missing, or part of the
[10] left hemisphere and the right is missing.
[11] A: Well, it would have been this particular
[12] section here, because this is the section where it
[13] was hit, and blew. There would be a large–a large
[14] piece of that.
[15] Q: You're referring to the portion–again,
[16] the back of the head, behind the ear; is that
[17] correct?
[18] A: That's correct, yes.
[19] Q: When the fragments were–the bullet
[20] fragments were removed from the skull, was that
[21] before or after the brain was removed?
[22] A: It was, as I understand it, before. As I

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[1] recollect, it was before.
[2] Q: Do you know whether the fragments were
[3] removed from brain tissue, as opposed to skull?
[4] A: I don't know. I can only say, he told us
[5] it was from the back of the sinus. So, I would
[6] assume that it would be from the brain tissue
[7] itself.
[8] And we were looking also, too, by the way–or the
[9] doctors are probing inside the cranium or
[10] the entire– And they were taking–you know, they
[11] took those two pieces out.
[12] And to the best of my recollection, that
[13] was prior to the time the entire brain was removed.
[14] Well, not the entire brain–what remained of the
[15] brain.
[16] Q: We've discussed a fragment of the skull
[17] coming into the depo–or coming into the autopsy
[18] later–later on, into the autopsy. Do you recall
[19] that?
[20] A: Yes.
[21] Q: Do you remember what the explanation was
[22] for where that piece of skull had been found?

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[1] A: As I–best I recall, it was supposedly
[2] found on the floor of the limousine that the
[3] President had been in.
[4] Q: Do you –
[5] A: And it was brought up by a–I believe, two
[6] Secret Service agents, or two or three Secret
[7] Service agents.
[8] Q: Do you recall what you were told at the
[9] time of the autopsy, where the skull had come from?
[10] A: I believe, what I just said was what I was
[11] told then.
[12] Q: Okay.
[13] A: Unless you can refresh my memory with
[14] something else.
[15] Q: I'd like to show you Exhibit 151–again,
[16] the 302 that was prepared. And I'd like to ask you
[17] to read along. You can read simultaneously.
[18] A: [Examining document.]
[19] Q: Let me read this into the record, and you
[20] can read along to yourself.
[21] A: Yes.
[22] Q: "Also, during the latter stages of the

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[1] autopsy, a piece of the skull, measuring 10 by 6.5
[2] centimeters, was brought to Dr. Humes, who was
[3] instructed that this had been removed from the
[4] President's skull."
[5] Do you see those words there?
[6] A: I sure do.
[7] Q: Can you tell me what that means; that it
[8] was removed from the President's skull?
[9] A: Well, it would be quite evident that if it
[10] was shot, it was removed. I mean, when it blew
[11] out, that would be removed.
[12] He did not– Maybe the terminology is
[13] what's confusing people. He did not, in any way,
[14] indicate to us that he thought that a surgical
[15] procedure had been performed to remove that.
[16] Q: Okay. Previously, we identified a
[17] document as Exhibit No. 149, which was a telex that
[18] had gone out. And you had said, in a very brief
[19] way, that you had provided some of the information
[20] that went into writing the telex.
[21] A: That is correct, yeah.
[22] Q: Could you look at this telex now, and

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[1] perhaps tell us what some of the terminology means?
[2] If we can start at the top, left-hand, where it say
[3] "urgent", what does that mean, typically, in an FBI
[4] telex?
[5] A: This is a teletype, which is urgent, to
[6] the–to the– In other words, go directly to the
[7] director.
[8] Q: So, that's a priority indicator of some –
[9] A: It would be a priority. However, in this
[10] particular instance, mostly every teletype we sent
[11] would be urgent.
[12] And in most instances, I know, in the
[13] Bureau, anything which you sent to the director was
[14] urgent. So, I– It really has not really
[15] significance. Except here, when it meant urgent,
[16] it meant urgent.
[17] In prior teletypes, you could send a
[18] teletype in. And if it had no– I mean, you just
[19] sent it "urgent" so that it would get a priority.
[20] Q: Okay. Was there any category of priority
[21] higher than urgent?
[22] A: Not to my knowledge.

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[1] Q: Okay. What does the 11/23/63 signify?
[2] A: The date.
[3] Q: And what does the 2-00 signify?
[4] A: The time it was sent.
[5] Q: And do you know what the AM and then the
[6] TRC signifies?
[7] A: The AM would be the a.m., antemeridian.
[8] The TRC, I don't know what that signifies.
[9] Q: So, it would be your understanding that
[10] this would have been sent from SAC, Baltimore to
[11] the Director –
[12] A: No. SAC, Dallas. Oh, excuse me. From
[13] the SAC, Baltimore; yes.
[14] Q: – to Director and SAC, Dallas?
[15] A: Yeah. This would have been after we
[16] called in to Tully–Ed Tully.
[17] Q: So, you called in. Your supervisor gave
[18] him some information. And the telex was prepared
[19] in the Baltimore office?
[20] A: We called up Tully direct.
[21] Q: Okay.
[22] A: And that was at 2:00 a.m. No, it showed

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[1] before 2:00 a.m.
[2] Q: Could you look at the bottom of the telex,
[3] where it says, "And ACK", which I assume means
[4] acknowledge, "PLS", which I assume means please.
[5] A: Oh, on the back of it here.
[6] Q: On the last page. Second page.
[7] Then 2- –
[8] A: 2:07 a.m., okay. This one –
[9] Q: – 07.
[10] A: Okay.
[11] Q: Can you tell me what those abbreviations
[12] signify?
[13] A: Yes. This would be the end of it,
[14] "acknowledge please." Which would be for the
[15] Bureau to come back and say, "Yes, we received it."
[16] And I see down here it was 2:07 a.m. "OK
[17] FBI Washington", which indicated that they received
[18] the teletype.
[19] Q: Would it be fair to say, then–or fair to
[20] assume that the version that we are looking at here
[21] is not the teletype as it was sent out from SAC,
[22] Baltimore, but as received in Washington?

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[1] A: That's correct.
[2] Q: Do you know whether Mr. Tully had any
[3] information on the autopsy, other than as it came
[4] from you and Mr. Sibert?
[5] A: He could not possibly have had any other
[6] information relative to the autopsy, unless it came
[7] from Jim or I.
[8] Q: Okay.
[9] A: Let me–let me qualify that. I don't know
[10] whether this had occurred or not, but let me just
[11] qualify that.
[12] The times would indicate that what I just
[13] said is absolutely correct. However, we did take
[14] these fragments over to the laboratory. And
[15] possibly somebody from the lab called up to give
[16] him some information.
[17] But I can't see in here how that would in
[18] any way change the information which we sent in.
[19] No, I have –
[20] Q: When you say "fragments", you're referring
[21] to the bullet fragments; is that correct?
[22] A: Yes.

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[1] Q: Could you look at –
[2] A: [Examining document.] This is what we
[3] sent in. See, he got that– Wait a minute. Okay,
[4] that's good.
[5] Q: Could you look at the second paragraph on
[6] the first page and the second sentence of that,
[7] which I'll read for the record.
[8] "Piece of skull measuring 10 by 6.5
[9] centimeters later flown in from Dallas hospitals.
[10] And X-rays Bethesda disclose minute metal fragments
[11] in this piece where bullet emerged from skull."
[12] A: Okay.
[13] Q: Do you see that?
[14] A: Yes, I do.
[15] Q: Can you tell me what it mean–what you
[16] meant by the fragments were flown in, or the
[17] fragment came in from Dallas hospital?
[18] A: Yes, I can. Because, as I understand it,
[19] when they examined the car, they found this piece
[20] of–what do you call it–skull in the car in the
[21] hospital area, and it was obtained from there. It
[22] was not my understanding whatsoever that this was a

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[1] piece which was found on a stretcher.
[2] Q: Do you recall of anytime within the first
[3] day or two–well, let's say within first week after
[4] the assassination, that you made any reference
[5] yourself to a fragment of skull as having been
[6] found in the limousine?
[7] A: I don't know whether we did or not. I
[8] think I might have, maybe, in the–in the very
[9] first report; didn't I?
[10] Q: Well, turn to page five of that, as well
[11] as any other portions you'd like. And it refers to
[12] the piece of the skull that had been removed from
[13] the President.
[14] A: [Examining document.] No, it doesn't say
[15] that. I think that somewhere– Don't I mention
[16] somewhere, two or three Secret Service agents
[17] bringing that and saying they got it from the car?
[18] Q: I believe that that's in your affidavit –
[19] A: Okay.
[20] Q: – for 1978.
[21] A: Yeah, okay.
[22] Q: Of course, what I'm trying to understand

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[1] is what you were told the night of the autopsy
[2] about this versus what you may have learned at some
[3] other time.
[4] A: Well, as I mentioned before, there are
[5] certain things which the finding of it is very
[6] important now. We recognize that. And various
[7] other things.
[8] But in those days, you got a piece of
[9] skull, "Here, we got it in the car," or something
[10] or other. Which later now means quite differently–or could
[11] mean something else differently.
[12] It was my understanding that was found in
[13] the car.
[14] Q: Do you know who it was who found it in the
[15] car?
[16] A: One of the Secret Service agents, when
[17] they were going through it.
[18] Q: Did you ever speak to any of the Secret –
[19] A: No.
[20] Q: – Service agents who found it?
[21] A: No.
[22] Q: So, the information that you have was

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[1] second or –
[2] A: It came in –
[3] Q: It was second-hand.
[4] A: It came in to the autopsy surgeons by the
[5] Secret Service agents.
[6] Q: So, the Secret Service agent who brought
[7] it into the morgue –
[8] A: That's correct.
[9] Q: That's your understanding?
[10] A: Not the morgue. Into the autopsy room.
[11] Q: And it didn't come from Kellerman or
[12] Greer; is that correct?
[13] A: No, it did not. Unless indirectly. Like
[14] they brought it on in, saying –
[15] Q: Sure.
[16] A: – "Bob, here found –" something. "Here
[17] it is."
[18] Q: Sure. Sure.
[19] A: But, no, it didn't– They did not have it
[20] in their possession at the time that the autopsy
[21] began or anything such as that.
[22] Q: Do you recall any discussion during the

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[1] time of the autopsy about the shape or size of an
[2] entrance wound in the skull?
[3] A: Now, I don't know how to answer this,
[4] because there was much discussion about the
[5] beveling in of the wound and the beveling out–I
[6] mean, the beveling in of the skull, and the
[7] beveling out, I believe, on the piece of the skull
[8] fragment which came in. That was discussed.
[9] Now, what else would like to –
[10] Q: Did the doctors describe, for example, the
[11] size of what they perceived to be the entrance
[12] wound? So, would they identify that with a certain
[13] number of centimeters or millimeters?
[14] A: If it's in my report, then, I do recall
[15] it.
[16] Q: Do you recall the doctors identifying the
[17] specific location of the entrance wound?
[18] A: As back here?
[19] Q: Yes.
[20] A: Yes, definitely. Yes, yes.
[21] Q: And do you recall that they –
[22] A: I do– I– May I just –

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[1] Q: Please.
[2] A: Because they–they were specific about
[3] this back wound here. And then they were also
[4] specific about the wound to the top of the head,
[5] about the beveling in and beveling on out. Yes, I
[6] specifically recall that.
[7] Q: Okay.
[8] A: They discussed that.
[9] Q: Do you remember their making any kind of
[10] statement about the–exactly where the location
[11] was, in terms of millimeters or centimeters?
[12] A: The head wound?
[13] Q: Yes.
[14] A: If they–if they did make a statement to
[15] that effect, I would have put that in the report.
[16] Q: Okay.
[17] A: Or Jim would have.
[18] Q: If we could now talk about the wound in
[19] the shoulder or the back, I don't mean any words
[20] I'm using to prejudice –
[21] A: Okay.
[22] Q: Whatever term you're more comfortable

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[1] with, I'd rather use.
[2] A: In the rear somewhere –
[3] Q: In the rear somewhere.
[4] A: – is fine.
[5] Q: But we're talking about the torso –
[6] A: Yes.
[7] Q: – and not the head. You previously made
[8] reference to attempts to probe that–probe that
[9] wound. Did you ever see any kind of metal object
[10] used to probe that wound?
[11] A: Yes. They used a metal probe, in addition
[12] to their fingers.
[13] Q: Did they use that probe at any time on the
[14] cranium or the head?
[15] A: Not to my knowledge.
[16] Q: And what did they conclude by using the
[17] probe, as best you recall?
[18] A: In the back?
[19] Q: In the back.
[20] A: In the back, they probed it to a point
[21] where they could not probe any further. In other
[22] words, it did not go any further. There–it only

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[1] went in, I guess, the length of a half of finger or
[2] something like that. And they could not push the
[3] probe any further.
[4] I think there was some discussion as to
[5] how far you could really push it in, before
[6] destroying the back section in there, which would
[7] stop the particular probing further.
[8] So, they probed to a point where they were
[9] comfortable that it had reached a blockage point on
[10] the inside there.
[11] Q: Did they make any calculations as to the
[12] angle of impact of the bullet –
[13] A: Yes, they did.
[14] Q: – in the body?
[15] A: And that's in the report, too. Now,
[16] that's their figures, not mine.
[17] Q: Sure, I understand.
[18] Did they seem reasonably–the doctors seem
[19] reasonably confident about the angle of entry of
[20] the bullet into the body?
[21] A: Absolutely. Above and back.
[22] Q: Do you remember whether the angle came

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[1] from the finger or from the probe? How they
[2] derived the angle?
[3] A: I do not recall how they derived the
[4] probe–I mean, how they derived the particular
[5] angle. I can only– Now, once again, I'm making
[6] assumptions that it came from the probe itself.
[7] And most probably– No. From the probe itself, I'd
[8] have to go.
[9] Q: Okay.
[10] A: Because they did measure the whole thing,
[11] too. And it would seem more probable to measure it
[12] from the probe, rather than from their own finger.
[13] Q: With regard to the injury on the front of
[14] the neck, was there any discussion at all at any
[15] point during the autopsy about that tracheotomy
[16] wound having any connection at all with any bullet
[17] wounds?
[18] A: Absolutely no.
[19] Q: Do you remember seeing the probe used at
[20] any point on the internal organs of the body?
[21] A: No.
[22] Q: Is it your understanding that you were

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[1] present through the time that the autopsy was
[2] completed?
[3] A: Totally and absolutely.
[4] Q: What was the last thing that you saw done
[5] to the body by the autopsy doctors?
[6] A: Well, the body was turned back on over.
[7] Q: Onto the back, or from –
[8] A: From the back to the front. So, now we
[9] have the body lying there.
[10] Let's see. I'm trying to figure out who
[11] did the washing, and who did the– There was some
[12] washing to begin with. But I mean, the–totally at
[13] the end.
[14] The last thing I recall them doing, they
[15] were taking off their gloves and calling in the
[16] morticians to complete the procedure which they
[17] have to perform on the body.
[18] Q: What was the condition of the skull at the
[19] time the doctors were completed? That is, were
[20] there flaps of skin down, or had that all been
[21] pulled back, too?
[22] A: As I recall it, there was–the flaps of

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[1] skin had been put back. I do recall the people
[2] coming in later–the funeral home, fixing it up to
[3] the point where it looked like in good shape. I
[4] mean, it looked in good shape.
[5] But I don't recall the doctors doing
[6] anything further to the body, once they had turned
[7] it on over. I don't know whether they took their
[8] hand and–you know, you push the thing back in,
[9] such as this, which would cover up that massive
[10] hole–the long section of the hole.
[11] And there was no discussion whatsoever
[12] about the tracheotomy. I mean, it was a
[13] fait accompli that that was a tracheotomy, nothing
[14] else.
[15] Nor was there any further discussion about
[16] the wound at the back of the–the wound in the
[17] back. No discussion whatsoever about that–about
[18] what it might have been, or –
[19] Now, I understand that later that morning,
[20] after the body was gone, calling to Dallas, they
[21] found out that it was over a bullet wound. But by
[22] that time, the body was gone.

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[1] Q: Did you see the men from Gawler's perform
[2] work on reconstruction of the body?
[3] A: Yes, I did.
[4] Q: Approximately what time, to the best of
[5] your recollection, did the autopsy itself conclude?
[6] A: Physically, the autopsy concluded
[7] somewhere shortly after midnight, I believe it was.
[8] In that general area. Now, I don't–can't be too
[9] much more specific. Maybe 12:15. Maybe 1:00 a.m.
[10] But it was over and done with.
[11] I know we did not get out– Well, let's
[12] reconstruct it a bit.
[13] The teletype was sent to the Bureau at
[14] 2:00 a.m., which means that we had to be out at–
[15] The teletype was sent from– Let's me see. I'm
[16] trying to think where it was sent from originally.
[17] From the Bureau headquarters–I mean, from
[18] Washington–no, from Baltimore.
[19] Q: Baltimore.
[20] A: So, I would say that the– We called up
[21] immediately upon getting, I believe, back out to
[22] Andrews. Or maybe we called from the Bureau–called from

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[1] the Bureau back to Baltimore to discuss
[2] it. So, it had to be that way.
[3] I would say that the autopsy was finished
[4] somewhere around 1:00, 1:10.
[5] Q: Did you go back– Something that you said
[6] confused me. Did you go back to Baltimore?
[7] A: No.
[8] Q: So, that was just a telephone call to
[9] Baltimore?
[10] A: That's correct. From Bureau headquarters.
[11] Q: And was the autopsy completed at the time
[12] you made the call to Baltimore?
[13] A: Totally. The body was dressed.
[14] Q: About how long were people from Gawler's
[15] working on the body, as best you can recall?
[16] A: Oh, let me see. They drained what was
[17] left the blood. I remember they put in whatever
[18] substance–formaldehyde or something like that.
[19] I believe they took out the eyes, if I'm
[20] not mistaken. What happened to them, I wouldn't
[21] know.
[22] Let me see. They covered up the throat.

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[1] I don't know what procedure they used, but they did
[2] that.
[3] They powdered the body. I'm sure of that.
[4] I know that. I know they shaved it also. Even put
[5] underwear on it. By the way, the valet went to the
[6] White House to get clothes for his body. A blue
[7] striped suit, dark tie.
[8] And that was the condition of the
[9] President–ex-President when we left. He was in a
[10] suit. He was in a casket. This was the second
[11] casket he was in, now, which was brought in by
[12] General Wehle.
[13] Q: During the time that work was being done
[14] on the skull–where there was the damage to the
[15] skull, did you watch that work being done?
[16] A: Just a very short procedure. From our
[17] point of view, the autopsy was totally over and
[18] completed
[19] This was something which we put in there
[20] from a peripheral point of view. This was just
[21] there. These people came in. They did this, they
[22] did that, et cetera. But the autopsy was totally

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[1] completed.
[2] The doctors were then–I think it was
[3] Humes was writing his protocol at the time. To my
[4] knowledge, he never–he never went back to the body
[5] while Jim and I were there.
[6] Q: So, from the time that the autopsy was
[7] completed and Gawler's started, were the–any of
[8] the autopsy doctors in the morgue or in the –
[9] A: Yes.
[10] Q: – the room? They were in the room?
[11] A: Yes, they were.
[12] Q: But they didn't go back and touch the
[13] body, or –
[14] A: When I say they were in the room, they
[15] were in the other room. Remember somebody was –
[16] Q: The anteroom?
[17] A: No, not the anteroom. They were in the–
[18] There was two–There was a partition back there,
[19] where the X-rays were. There was a table in there.
[20] And they were in there, discussing it–in that
[21] particular area there.
[22] Q: Okay. But they didn't go back with–or do

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[1] anything further with the body?
[2] A: I never saw them. No, they– Because the
[3] people from the funeral home were working on it.
[4] Q: Okay. And at the time that you left the
[5] hospital, it was your understanding that the work
[6] on the body had been totally completed by Gawler's,
[7] and it was–the body was back in the casket?
[8] A: To my knowledge, the body was totally
[9] completed by then. In fact, they were waiting for
[10] Mrs. Kennedy and Bobby Kennedy to come down to view
[11] the body.
[12] Q: Did you see what the people from Gawler's
[13] used to reconstruct the head at all? Any
[14] procedures or –
[15] A: No, I don't recall that. I must have seen
[16] it at the time, but I was– You know, to me, from
[17] my general experience and from my investigative
[18] experience, the autopsy was totally completed.
[19] The doctors took off their gloves. They
[20] left them on the table. They walked into another
[21] room–I mean, another section of the room. To me,
[22] that's over and done with.

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[1] Q: And do you–well, I've asked this before.
[2] Let me put it into a different context.
[3] A: Sure.
[4] Q: Do you recall any photographers after
[5] that–after the autopsy was being–had been
[6] completed that came back and took any additional
[7] pictures?
[8] A: If they did, I don't recall it.
[9] Q: Okay. During the course of the autopsy,
[10] how many people did you see writing notes or taking
[11] any kind of notes?
[12] A: Well, I didn't see any of the people in
[13] the balcony area writing notes.
[14] I saw Humes write some, or Boswell write
[15] some. One of them wrote something or other, I seem
[16] to recall–or make drawings or something in that
[17] particular vein.
[18] I don't know whether Boswell used a–or
[19] Humes used a–one of these little machines, or not.
[20] Q: Dictating machine?
[21] A: Dictating machine, or not. But I know he
[22] started off by saying something, "Well, the body is

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[1] such and such and such." There might have been a
[2] stenographer there, taking notes for him. I don't
[3] know. I don't recall that.
[4] Q: Do you recall whether Colonel Fink took
[5] any notes?
[6] A: I don't recall specifically whether he did
[7] or not. I know he came in later during the
[8] autopsy. He was not there for the beginning.
[9] Q: Did you take notes during the autopsy?
[10] A: Yes, we did.
[11] Q: Both you and Mr. Sibert?
[12] A: Jim took some, also.
[13] Q: So, there were two sets of –
[14] A: But we didn't take it contemporaneously.
[15] In other words, I'm chatting with you now or
[16] something. Then I go outside and make the note, or
[17] something or other.
[18] We didn't want to leave the impression
[19] that we were making notes of the people there. And
[20] we felt that it was a much better way of doing it
[21] to write it immediately thereafter, rather than–
[22] Because the minute you sit down and start taking

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[1] notes, some people clam up. And we didn't want
[2] that to occur.
[3] We did take some, though. Yes, we did.
[4] And I destroyed them.
[5] Q: Can you tell me about what the procedure
[6] is generally for the creation of the 302? Not with
[7] respect to this–the particular one on the night of
[8] the autopsy.
[9] A: You would take notes. You would take
[10] notes for–for a purpose. Normally, you would ask
[11] somebody –
[12] If you're going to write a 302–I'm coming
[13] in to interview you now about the murder of John
[14] Doe or something like that, and you're a witness to
[15] it. I'm going to say, "May I take notes?" or
[16] something such as that.
[17] But in this particular case because of the
[18] exceptional circumstances surrounding it, now, we
[19] didn't want to disturb anybody or distract their
[20] sense of–trains of thought in that particular
[21] vein.
[22] So, we didn't openly go around and say,

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[1] "Okay. We're going to take some notes now. And
[2] here we go. Do you mind if I take these notes?" or
[3] something of that particular vein. No, we did not
[4] do that.
[5] Q: Now, again, I'd like to –
[6] A: Yes.
[7] Q: – just talk about the ordinary course of
[8] preparing a 302.
[9] A: Yes.
[10] Q: When you take notes, what do you do with
[11] the notes after you have taken the –
[12] A: You take those notes, review them to make
[13] sure they were properly put in there. You might
[14] make a note and say something, and you would fill
[15] in the missing spaces which you might have taken
[16] when you got back to your headquarters. And then
[17] you would dictate it within five days.
[18] Q: And then after it's dictated, what do you
[19] do with the notes?
[20] A: You would take back the information which
[21] was recorded, and review that against the
[22] information on the 302, and sign it. And then we

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[1] had a habit of destroying the notes, because we
[2] could not see any reason to keep the notes.
[3] Well, I'll say it off the record, but go
[4] ahead. Are we on the record, or off the record?
[5] Q: We're on the record.
[6] A: Okay.
[7] Q: Go ahead.
[8] A: There's no reason to go ahead and discuss
[9] the taking of the notes or putting them in a-what
[10] you call the 1A exhibit in your report, because
[11] through- An attorney can get a hold of those notes
[12] and compare those notes with the particular 302.
[13] The notes themselves would not be a
[14] vervatim-
[15] Q: Verbatim.
[16] A: -verbatim representation of exactly what
[17] is in the 302, because you would elaborate a little
[18] bit further in the 302 than on the notes.
[19] And my first SAC, an old Texas Ranger,
[20] said, "Son," he says, "once you dictate that,
[21] that's what you're going to testify to. So, get
[22] rid of anything else." And we did. And I did.

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[1] And I think every FBI agent does.
[2] Q: And do you have a specific recollection of
[3] destroying the notes that were used here?
[4] A: Oh, specifically.
[5] Q: Do you recall what the-how the -
[6] A: Now we're back on the record.
[7] Q: We're on the record -
[8] A: Fine.
[9] Q: - all the way through.
[10] A: Okay.
[11] Q: Okay. Let me show you once again a
[12] document that we previously referred to at the
[13] depositions, Exhibit No. 1, which is a face sheet
[14] from the autopsy.
[15] Did you see this document-I'm referring
[16] now to the first page of this document-during the
[17] night of the autopsy? Did you see anyone working
[18] on that, or preparing that?
[19] A: No, not really. I can't say. I might
[20] have, but it doesn't hit me like a-like a bolt,
[21] no.
[22] Q: Could you look at the second page of this,

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[1] and tell me whether you recall having seen that on
[2] the night of the autopsy?
[3] A: No, not to my knowledge, either. I might
[4] have, but I don't specifically recall it.
[5] MR. GUNN: Okay. I think we better talk
[6] about lunch. Maybe we should go off the record
[7] now.
[8] THE WITNESS: Fine.
[9] MR. GUNN: Do you need a break?
[10] [Lunch recess.]

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[1] AFTERNOON SESSION
[2] Whereupon,
[3] FRANCIS XAVIER O'NEILL, JR.
[4] was recalled for examination by counsel for The
[5] Assassination Records Review Board and, having been
[6] previously duly sworn by the notary public, was
[7] examined and testified further as follows:
[8] EXAMINATION BY COUNSEL FOR THE ARRB
[9] BY MR. GUNN:
[10] Q: Mr. O'Neill, before we broke for lunch, we
[11] were discussing the notes that you had taken to use
[12] in preparation for the 302.
[13] A: Yes.
[14] Q: I have a question about other notes that
[15] you saw being prepared during the time of the
[16] autopsy. Did you ever hear anything about the
[17] disposition of other notes, such as notes being
[18] taken by Humes or Boswell?
[19] A: By rumor. All right. I'll repeat this,
[20] but I don't know this of my own knowledge.
[21] But I had heard that after he completed
[22] his protocol, Humes, I believe, destroyed his notes

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[1] and destroyed a schematic drawing, or something or
[2] other, of the autopsy-I mean, of the body.
[3] Q: Where did you hear those rumors from?
[4] A: Came to me from the seat of-from Bureau
[5] headquarters. One of the agents there-I just
[6] forget who he was-had heard that from the Secret
[7] Service. And I understand that this is-by the
[8] way, the Secret Service had heard it from somebody
[9] at Bethesda.
[10] Q: Did anybody attach any particular
[11] significance to those notes being destroyed, in the
[12] Secret Service?
[13] A: No, because I had destroyed mine also.
[14] So, it didn't make any particular difference to me,
[15] one way or the other.
[16] Looking back now or looking back a month-I mean,
[17] a year or so afterwards, yes, because
[18] those-that particular drawing and also the notes
[19] would specifically show what we said or corroborate
[20] what would be in our reports.
[21] Q: Do you recall ever having heard any
[22] discussion by anyone regarding any searches for

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[1] notes after the autopsy, or anything about missing
[2] notes from the autopsy?
[3] A: No, sir.
[4] Q: Did you observe at any time during the
[5] autopsy any film being taken out of a camera and
[6] being exposed to light?
[7] A: No, sir.
[8] Q: Did you ever hear any story about film
[9] being exposed to light?
[10] A: No, sir.
[11] Q: Did you ever know Special Agent James Fox
[12] of the Secret Service?
[13] A: I heard the name mentioned. I just don't
[14] recall exactly where I heard it. I believe he was
[15] of the agents-believe he was one of the agents who
[16] came up from Dallas.
[17] Q: Do you know about any role that Mr. Fox
[18] had in conjunction with autopsy photos?
[19] A: No, sir.
[20] Q: Do you know where the autopsy photographs
[21] went after they left Bethesda?
[22] A: Yes, they went to- Let me see. They were

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[1] given to the Secret Service. I think an agent by
[2] the name of Brock, B-r-o-c-k, or something like
[3] that, might –
[4] Q: Bouck? Bouck, B-o-u-c-k?
[5] A: I believe, something like that. I got
[6] that from my–I think, during our interviews on the
[7] 27th, from–from Kellerman, or Greer, or Jim Behn–or Gerry
[8] Behn.
[9] That evening, they were given to the
[10] Secret Service. What particular agent, I don't
[11] know.
[12] Q: Have you ever heard anything about any
[13] missing autopsy photographs?
[14] A: No, sir.
[15] Q: What I'd like to do now is to show you
[16] some photographs that have been identified by other
[17] witnesses as being original autopsy photographs, if
[18] we can take a short break and have those assembled.
[19] [Recess.]
[20] MR. GUNN: Back on the record.
[21] BY MR. GUNN:
[22] Q: Mr. O'Neill, I'd like to –

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[1] A: Yes.
[2] Q: – have you take a look at the first view,
[3] which is the "left side of head and shoulders".
[4] And you're going to be looking at Color Positive
[5] No. 29.
[6] I'd like to ask if that is what the body
[7] appeared to you to be like on the night of November
[8] 22nd? Again, that's the left profile of the head.
[9] A: Yes. I see the eyes are still open, too,
[10] as I say; yeah.
[11] Q: Do you recall the stirrup that's being
[12] used to hold the President's head? Do you remember
[13] whether that was –
[14] A: No, I don't recall that.
[15] Q: Do you recall a towel being under the
[16] President's head at any time during the autopsy?
[17] A: No.
[18] Q: Okay.
[19] MR. GUNN: Could we have a look at the
[20] second view, which is described as –
[21] THE WITNESS: Oh, I didn't realize that he
[22] had that– Well, go ahead. I'm just making an

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[1] observation on my own here about the head.
[2] BY MR. GUNN:
[3] Q: No, go ahead.
[4] A: No, I didn't realize it was so large. I
[5] remember it was very large, but –
[6] Q: But please don't –
[7] A: No, I didn't touch it.
[8] Q: Oh, okay.
[9] A: No, I didn't. No.
[10] I didn't realize it was that large.
[11] Q: There will be another view where it will
[12] be a little bit clearer.
[13] The second view that we're looking at is
[14] the "right side of head and shoulder" described as
[15] Color Photograph No. 26. And we can turn it that
[16] way.
[17] A: Yeah.
[18] Q: I'd like to ask you whether that is how
[19] the body appeared to you on the night of the 22nd?
[20] A: Yes. Boy, what a mess. Yeah, I didn't
[21] realize it.
[22] Q: I'd like to draw your attention to a few

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[1] parts of this. The first is what I will call a
[2] somewhat triangular or pointed–maybe V shape is a
[3] better thing, that goes towards the front of the
[4] forehead.
[5] Do you recall that mark that actually
[6] enters into the forehead as it appears on the
[7] photo?
[8] A: Yes. But my question would be, what is
[9] that? Is that blood, or is that an opening itself?
[10] Q: Are you able to tell, based upon your
[11] experience at the autopsy and looking at the
[12] photograph, what that is?
[13] A: It seems to me that that would seem to be
[14] blood.
[15] Q: And that doesn't appear to you to be torn
[16] scalp or –
[17] A: It could be. Either one.
[18] Q: But you'd say, in a general way, that
[19] looks –
[20] A: As a general description of what occurred–or a
[21] general depiction of what occurred, yes.
[22] Q: All right. So –

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[1] A: I mean, what it looked like. Yes.
[2] Q: And notice the matter that seems to be
[3] extruding from the head. Is that consistent with
[4] what you observed on the night of the 22nd?
[5] A: Yes. I thought there was a–not as much
[6] of it, but I can see there is substantial there.
[7] MR. GUNN: Could we now look at the third
[8] view, which is described as the "superior view of
[9] the head", Photograph No. 32.
[10] BY MR. GUNN:
[11] Q: I'd like to ask you whether that also
[12] looks consistent with what you remember from the
[13] night of the autopsy.
[14] A: The back of the head, yes. Now, as I
[15] mentioned, we were outside when the photographs
[16] were taken. So, it– Yes, that could very well be
[17] it. But that does look like it from the back.
[18] Q: Now, that –
[19] A: I don't recall a towel being there,
[20] because I didn't see the towel. Yes, but that
[21] would look pretty much like the mess that was
[22] there.

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[1] MR. GUNN: Okay. Can we look at the
[2] fourth photograph or the fourth view, called
[3] "posterior view of wound of entrance of missile
[4] high in shoulder", Color Photograph No. 38.
[5] THE WITNESS: Yeah, that looks fairly
[6] good.
[7] BY MR. GUNN:
[8] Q: That looks approximately like what you
[9] saw?
[10] A: Yes, it does. I'm just trying to
[11] visualize if the neck had been down, it would
[12] appear that this would have been down further. But
[13] that's approximately it, yeah.
[14] Q: Okay. And are you able to identify the
[15] bullet entry wound in the neck or shoulder area?
[16] A: The upper one here.
[17] Q: Okay. The one that is roughly consistent
[18] with–let's see, one, two, three–where the third
[19] centimeter mark is?
[20] A: Yes.
[21] Q: Do you see that?
[22] A: Yes.

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[1] MR. GUNN: Okay. Could we take a look at
[2] the fifth view, the "right anterior view of head
[3] and upper torso, including tracheotomy wound",
[4] Color No. 40.
[5] THE WITNESS: Yep.
[6] BY MR. GUNN:
[7] Q: I'd like you to take a look at the
[8] tracheotomy wound, and tell me whether that is
[9] approximately the size that you remember it being.
[10] A: Yes, it is. But there's something which
[11] I– I'm viewing it here, and it's– I don't know.
[12] The photographs are –
[13] In some, the eyes are open all the way.
[14] And in some of them, they're almost closed. Would
[15] that be from the movement of the body which made
[16] the– What do you call it? The–the eyelids. And
[17] they go up and down, or what?
[18] It just seems a bit odd to me that this
[19] picture, they're–looks 100 percent wide open.
[20] Yet, on some of the others, they don't look nearly
[21] that open at all.
[22] Q: Do you recall from the night of the

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[1] autopsy whether the eyes were ever opened?
[2] A: Yes, I do. Yes, very much so. As I
[3] mentioned, I think, originally, and also in my
[4] notes that the eyes were open. This is the way it
[5] would look to me.
[6] Q: Okay. And just so I'm clear, the
[7] tracheotomy wound looks to you approximately the
[8] way it looked the night of –
[9] A: Yes, it does. That is correct.
[10] MR. GUNN: Okay. Can we take a look now
[11] at view number six, which is described as "wound of
[12] entrance in right posterior occipital region",
[13] Color Photograph No. 42.
[14] BY MR. GUNN:
[15] Q: I'd like to ask you whether that
[16] photograph resembles what you saw from the back of
[17] the head at the time of the autopsy?
[18] A: This looks like it's been doctored in some
[19] way. Let me rephrase that, when I say "doctored".
[20] Like the stuff has been pushed back in, and it
[21] looks like more towards the end than at the
[22] beginning. All you have to do was put the flap

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[1] back over here, and the rest of the stuff is all
[2] covered on up.
[3] Q: Did you at any point during the autopsy
[4] see that the hair had been washed or cleaned?
[5] Let me–let me withdraw that and rephrase
[6] the question.
[7] Prior to the time the first incision was
[8] made, did you ever see that the hair had been
[9] cleaned, or combed, or pressed back in any way?
[10] A: No, I don't recall if it did. No, I don't
[11] recall that.
[12] Q: I'd like to show you the original drawing
[13] that you made for the House Select Committee on
[14] Assassinations, Exhibit No. 86.
[15] A: All right.
[16] Q: And ask you whether –
[17] A: Let me rephrase this now. I can't draw.
[18] So, I didn't make these original drawings. I
[19] just –
[20] Q: Sure.
[21] A: – indicated on there.
[22] Q: Sure. Let me rephrase that, so there

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[1] isn't any question.
[2] Although you didn't make the drawings, you
[3] made the markings of approximately –
[4] A: Yes.
[5] Q: – where the wounds were located?
[6] A: Approximately, that's correct.
[7] Q: Do you see the wounds that you identified
[8] in the drawings that you made in 1978 on the
[9] autopsy Photograph No. 42, which is–again, we're
[10] looking at the wound of entrance.
[11] A: No, I don't see the wounds. I don't see
[12] the– To me, the other photographs were a better
[13] depiction of the way the back of the head looked
[14] when I saw it.
[15] MR. GUNN: Steve, could we see–and keep
[16] this one here–the fourth view, which is the
[17] posterior view of wound? And that's No. 38.
[18] BY MR. GUNN:
[19] Q: This is one you looked at a moment ago,
[20] and I'd like to draw your attention –
[21] A: Yeah, I can see it's the same way. It's
[22] very similar to it, yeah.

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[1] Q: Does the back of the head in Photograph
[2] No. 38–the one that's on your left now–does the
[3] head wound look like what you saw on the night of
[4] the autopsy?
[5] A: Let me rephrase it, then. You asked me
[6] before–had nothing to do with the head wound. But
[7] this here, I assume that you are asking if this was
[8] the same?
[9] Quite frankly, I thought that there was a
[10] larger opening in the back, such as the other–I
[11] mean, opening in the neck. Let me rephrase that
[12] again. Opening in the back of the head.
[13] Q: Back of the head.
[14] A: Yes.
[15] Q: And, so, does it look to you as it–or the
[16] photograph itself does not seem to comport –
[17] A: These look very, very–almost identical as
[18] these pictures here.
[19] Q: And you're referring to Nos. 38 and 42?
[20] A: Mm-hmm.
[21] Q: That is, they look similar in terms of
[22] showing the back of the head?

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[1] A: That's correct.
[2] Q: But that the views that you're seeing do
[3] not correspond exactly with what you recall?
[4] A: I specifically do not recall those–I
[5] mean, being that clean or that fixed up. To me, it
[6] looks like these pictures have been– But if
[7] they've been identified–positively identified,
[8] then, de facto.
[9] But I'm talking about myself. It would
[10] appear to me that there was a–more of a massive
[11] wound, such as the other photographs depicted. I'm
[12] not saying that these have been doctored or phonied
[13] up in any particular way at all.
[14] It just would appear to me– And I don't
[15] recall anybody going ahead and cleaning up that
[16] section, just for the sake of having the
[17] photographs taken.
[18] Q: Okay.
[19] A: Has it ever been questioned as to what
[20] that is there, and that is there? What that is?
[21] Q: You're referring to a little piece of
[22] something that looks like matter of some sort –

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[1] A: Yes.
[2] Q: – that's near the hairline at the top of
[3] the neck?
[4] A: Yes.
[5] Q: There's been discussion about that. And
[6] different people have made different observations
[7] about it.
[8] A: Yeah, I just thought I'd ask.
[9] MR. GUNN: Okay. Could we take a look at
[10] the last view, which is the seventh view. It is
[11] described as "missile wound of entrance in
[12] posterior skull, following reflection of scalp",
[13] Color Photograph No. 44.
[14] BY MR. GUNN:
[15] Q: And let me just give you a little bit of
[16] caution that most people who look at this have a
[17] hard time orienting it. And it's a difficult view.
[18] So, if you are puzzled, then, you're not alone.
[19] A: Oh, that's good.
[20] Q: With that said, does that –
[21] [Interruption to the proceedings.]
[22] BY MR. GUNN:

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[1] Q: After that brief interruption, can you
[2] identify that photograph as any view that you saw
[3] at the night of the autopsy?
[4] A: No. Quite frankly, I can't. It looks
[5] like it's a piece of the–of the flap here which
[6] came on back. It would appear to be something like
[7] that. But I can't specifically identify that
[8] picture there, no.
[9] MR. GUNN: Okay. Could we now see the
[10] eighth view, what has been described as the
[11] "basilar view of brain", Color Photograph No. 46.
[12] BY MR. GUNN:
[13] Q: And let me say, in the way of preface,
[14] these photographs have been identified as having
[15] been taken of President Kennedy's brain at sometime
[16] after the autopsy–after they had been set in
[17] formalin.
[18] Can you identify that in any reasonable
[19] way as appearing to be the–what the brain looked
[20] like of President Kennedy?
[21] A: No.
[22] Q: In what regard does it appear to be

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[1] different?
[2] A: It appears to be too much.
[3] MR. GUNN: Could we now look at– Let me
[4] ask a question.
[5] BY MR. GUNN:
[6] Q: If you could elaborate a little bit on
[7] what you mean by "it appears to be too much"?
[8] A: Well, from this particular photograph
[9] here, it would seem that the only section of the
[10] brain which is missing is this small section over
[11] here. To me, that's not consistent with the way I
[12] recall seeing it.
[13] I do recall a large amount of what was
[14] identified to me as brain matter being on the back
[15] of Kellerman's shirt–I mean, Kellerman's jacket
[16] and Greer's jacket. And, to me, that was a larger
[17] portion than that section there.
[18] This looks almost like a complete brain.
[19] Or am I wrong on that? I don't know.
[20] MR. GUNN: Could we take a look– If we
[21] could keep this one out for just a moment, and take
[22] a look at the ninth view, which is described as the

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[1] superior view of the brain, Color Photograph No.
[2] 50.
[3] BY MR. GUNN:
[4] Q: Just so it's clear to you, the basilar
[5] view is going to be the brain from the bottom. The
[6] superior view will be the brain from the top.
[7] And what I'm showing you now would be the
[8] left hemisphere of the brain. And the portion over
[9] here is the right hemisphere of the brain. The
[10] cerebellum is the portion down there.
[11] Does that look approximately the size of
[12] what you recall President Kennedy's brain being
[13] when it was removed from the cranium?
[14] A: In all honesty, I can't say that it looks
[15] like the brain that I saw, quite frankly. I– As I
[16] described before, I did not recall it being that
[17] large.
[18] If other people say that this is what
[19] happened, so be it. To me, I don't recall it being
[20] that large. It could have been, but I can't swear
[21] on a stack of Bibles that it was.
[22] MR. GUNN: Okay. I think that's it for

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[1] now. Thank you very much.
[2] Off the record for a second.
[3] [Discussion off the record.]
[4] BY MR. GUNN:
[5] Q: Mr. O'Neill, earlier in the deposition
[6] we've been referring to a document that has been
[7] identified as Exhibit 151, which is the 302 that
[8] you made from the time of the autopsy.
[9] A: Yes.
[10] Q: What I'd like to do is show you a document
[11] that is–that we withdrew from the Archives that
[12] has an Agency No. 124-10063-10184.
[13] And I'd like to ask you if you can
[14] identify whether this document–that I'm handing to
[15] you now–is the original of the 302 from the
[16] autopsy.
[17] A: Let me see. Well, those are my initials.
[18] No ifs or buts about that. It would certainly
[19] appear to be, unless you can prove to me otherwise
[20] that it's not. Put it that way.
[21] I notice that there is here the spaces in
[22] here.

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[1] Q: When you say "the spaces", you're
[2] referring to the gaps between the words? That
[3] space on page four?
[4] A: Either they were typographical errors or
[5] some word there that didn't belong in there. Not
[6] as some people have indicated and pointed it out to
[7] me before; that we were taking out a word which was
[8] very germane to the entire situation.
[9] Q: Now, when– Well, first, let me make sure
[10] that I'm understanding. To the best of your
[11] understanding, this document that is in your hand
[12] now is the original?
[13] Let me ask that in a different way.
[14] Withdraw that question.
[15] Did you sign more than one document?
[16] A: No.
[17] Q: And can you identify this as having been
[18] initialed by you?
[19] A: Yes, those are my initials.
[20] Q: So, would it be your understanding that to
[21] the extent there is an original of this document,
[22] that it's the one that's in your hand here?

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[1] A: Yes.
[2] Q: Now, earlier you described this as being-
[3] Perhaps I- As I recall, the word you used is
[4] "mimeograph". Could you describe what the
[5] procedure was for creating this document?
[6] A: Well, let me see. As I recall-and this
[7] is going back many long years-they would type it
[8] up on a blue type of a sheet, and then put the
[9] sheet on a mimeograph machine, and run it off that
[10] way.
[11] Q: So, the sheet would- Is it a sheet
[12] covered with a plastic-type film? Do you know?
[13] A: Something similar to that, as I recall.
[14] Q: And then the typewriter would hit directly
[15] on to that plastic -
[16] A: That's correct.
[17] Q: - and leave a hole in it.
[18] A: Yes.
[19] Q: The ink would then go through the hole.
[20] A: That's correct.
[21] Q: Do you know what was done with the inky
[22] plastic sheet after the copies were made from it?

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[1] A: Well, I've seen it done before in the
[2] past, and I know they destroyed them. Now, I see
[3] no reason why they would have kept those plastic
[4] sheets.
[5] Q: So, it's not- If we have an original
[6] document that there are subsequent copies made of,
[7] it's that all of the documents that are made are
[8] copies made from this mimeograph or plastic sheet;
[9] is that correct?
[10] A: I can't say it would-that would-that did
[11] not happen in this particular case. But I do know,
[12] in a routine case, there's absolutely no reason to
[13] save these mimeograph machine-I mean, mimeographed
[14] sheets, once they have been looked over and gone
[15] through.
[16] Q: Okay. I'd like to draw your attention to
[17] four portions of the 302 -
[18] A: Yes.
[19] Q: - that pertain to things that you have
[20] already identified as being either gaps in the
[21] words or spaces, and just ask you whether you
[22] recall what the words were that appeared in those

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[1] spaces.
[2] A: Sure.
[3] Q: If we could start on page one of the
[4] document, there is a reference to Air Force One.
[5] A: Air Force Number One?
[6] [Discussion off the record.]
[7] BY MR. GUNN:
[8] Q: Okay.
[9] A: Air Force One, okay.
[10] Q: Okay, Air Force One. This is on the
[11] signed page. So, the top of the page begins with,
[12] "At approximately 3:00 p.m.", then the third line
[13] down has "Air Force One".
[14] Do you recall what was in the space where
[15] the word "One" now appears?
[16] A: Probably what was on the space on the
[17] front page, which would be "Number" One.
[18] Q: That would, presumably, take up even fewer
[19] spaces than the one. Whereas, we have extra
[20] spaces.
[21] A: That was the only thing I can think of in
[22] there. That the first page, we left "Air Force

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[1] Number One". And this one would be "Air Force One"
[2] itself.
[3] Q: Okay. Any other possibility that you know
[4] about what -
[5] A: No.
[6] Q: - might have been there?
[7] A: Not at all.
[8] Q: Could you turn to page three? And I'd
[9] like to draw your attention to the sentence that
[10] begins with the word "Arrangements were made", and
[11] have you notice the space between the word "by" and
[12] "the U.S. Navy".
[13] Do you have any recollection now as to
[14] what was in that space?
[15] A: This was "Arrangements were made" for-
[16] Oh, down here on the second line.
[17] Q: Yes, that's right.
[18] A: No. No, I have not.
[19] Q: Could you look at page four, please, and
[20] draw your attention to the very first line of that
[21] page. "During the autopsy" -
[22] A: Space there.

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[1] Q: - then there's a space "inspection". Do
[2] you have any recollection as to what went there?
[3] A: No, none.
[4] Q: Mr. O'Neill -
[5] A: Yes.
[6] Q: - if you recall, during the autopsy,
[7] there was a fragment that came from Dallas.
[8] A: Yes.
[9] Q: Did the doctors attempt to locate where on
[10] the cranium that fragment came from?
[11] A: Yes.
[12] Q: And were they able to determine where the
[13] fragment came from?
[14] A: To the best of my recollection, they were.
[15] Q: And where was that?
[16] A: Back in this section of the head.
[17] Q: You're pointing, once again, to the -
[18] A: Yes.
[19] Q: - to the part behind the ear?
[20] A: There was a section of the cranium missing
[21] from there.
[22] Q: Did they identify, to the best of the

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[1] recollection, the type of bone; that is, parietal
[2] bone, occipital bone?
[3] A: They may have, but I don't specifically
[4] recall exactly what medical term they would use
[5] for -
[6] THE WITNESS: Can we go off the record for
[7] a moment?
[8] MR. GUNN: Okay.
[9] THE WITNESS: Very briefly.
[10] [Discussion off the record.]
[11] MR. GUNN: We can go back on the record.
[12] BY MR. GUNN:
[13] Q: Mr. O'Neill, could you just repeat what
[14] you said while we were off the record?
[15] A: Yes. At the time that these 302s were
[16] made by both Sibert and myself, the Bureau
[17] headquarters was insistent and including Mr.
[18] Hoover, that they wanted the report out just as
[19] soon as he could dictate it.
[20] Looking back now, if we can see minor
[21] errors in 302s, they certainly would have been
[22] corrected if we had more time. There would be no

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[1] spaces, et cetera, in there.
[2] Q: We were just speaking a moment ago about
[3] the large fragment that came in from Dallas.
[4] A: Yes.
[5] Q: I'd like to draw your attention to page
[6] three of the report, to the paragraph that's the
[7] next to the last paragraph, and the last sentence
[8] of that.
[9] A: "The next largest..."
[10] Q: The sentence that begins–I'll just read
[11] it for the record–"The next largest fragment
[12] appeared to be at the rear of the skull at the
[13] juncture of the skull bone."
[14] A: Yes.
[15] Q: Do you now recall what that is referring
[16] to?
[17] A: No. I, quite frankly, cannot remember. I
[18] do know that this was the terminology given to us
[19] by the doctors.
[20] Q: Okay. Now, I'd like to ask you a general
[21] question about the 302, and that is whether you now
[22] recall any information that you think should have

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[1] been included in the 302 that was not included?
[2] A: Yes. Specifically, yes. I think that the
[3] 302 should have included the conversation that I
[4] had with Roy Kellerman relative to the President
[5] saying, "My God, I've been hit."
[6] I don't know whether it was in this one,
[7] or in the one from the White House.
[8] Q: I think that may be, in fact, in the
[9] document –
[10] A: [Examining document.] No. And looking
[11] back now, if I had read this quite specifically, I
[12] would have certainly corrected it at the time,
[13] because he told me exactly what I told you. He
[14] said, "My God, I've been hit." Mr. Kellerman heard
[15] Mr. Kennedy say, "My God, I've been hit."
[16] And then he went into the situation about
[17] How he had been with him for a long period of time,
[18] and he knew that he was the only person in the back
[19] seat who spoke with a Boston accent.
[20] Q: Did you enter–or did you speak with
[21] Mr. Kellerman a few days later?
[22] A: Yes, the 27th.

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[1] Q: I'd like to show you a document we've
[2] previously identified as Exhibit 152, and ask you
[3] whether this is what you're now referring to? The
[4] paragraph that is on page three.
[5] A: Oh, I didn't realize I put it in there.
[6] Yes, specifically.
[7] Q: Okay. Is there any –
[8] A: Let me just review that. I didn't realize
[9] I put that on the report. Well, I'm glad I did, as
[10] a matter of fact.
[11] This, now– Stay on the record. Okay?
[12] Q: Yes.
[13] A: This one here, which was on the 22nd –
[14] Q: You're now referring to Exhibit 151.
[15] A: Yes, which is different from the one which
[16] was on the 27th.
[17] Q: Which is Exhibit 152.
[18] A: Right. We might have– Let me see how we
[19] explain this. [Examining document.]
[20] Where did we see that section where he's
[21] saying Mrs. Kennedy said something?
[22] Q: That's –

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[1] A: Oh, it's in this one here.
[2] Q: That's on page one of the –
[3] A: This was probably influenced by the rumors
[4] which came out at the time that Mrs. Kennedy had
[5] said something relative to that.
[6] I can't explain it, other than to say that
[7] I'm putting this down at the time. Maybe Kellerman
[8] changed his mind. I don't know whether he did not.
[9] It would seem that he did.
[10] Remember now, he had a period of time to
[11] discuss this January–I mean, the November 27th
[12] interview with his–Jim Rowley, Gerry Behn, all of
[13] the other agents involved, Secret Service.
[14] Now, why he said this at one time, and
[15] then said this at another time, I don't know. But
[16] this– Once again, I have no reason to put
[17] something down on a particular piece of paper,
[18] unless they tell me what it was. He said this on
[19] the 22nd or the 23rd, whatever it might be –
[20] And once again, too, now, you have to
[21] remember this. This man is under tremendous
[22] stress. He really is. I don't know whether I put

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[1] it down on the piece of paper or not. Maybe I did.
[2] But he–he had not even telephoned his
[3] wife. While we're interviewing him, this is the
[4] late evening. And there had been a rumor out–or a
[5] report out that two Secret Service agents had been
[6] killed. So, the man was under tremendous stress.
[7] That's the only explanation I can give.
[8] I do know he was very specific here, in
[9] this one.
[10] Q: You're referring to the second interview?
[11] A: The 27th. That's correct, yes.
[12] Q: Did anyone –
[13] A: As a matter of fact–if you don't mind me
[14] just interrupting here–this is the very first time
[15] I heard anybody not question, but bring this to my
[16] particular attention; that he said one thing on one
[17] day, and one thing on another day.
[18] Q: Why did you go back to Agent Kellerman and
[19] talk to him, and interview him again?
[20] A: Because we felt that with more time, he
[21] might be able to give us more information. This
[22] was a very brief– Let me rephrase that. It's not

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[1] very brief, but under circumstances where we were
[2] not taking notes–or as many notes as we wanted to
[3] take in the presence of the person we're speaking
[4] to.
[5] The second interview was a regular type of
[6] interview, where we took notes in his presence.
[7] "Well, Roy, now, did you say this?"
[8] Bing, bing. Okay.
[9] We did not go down there with our original
[10] notes, because our original notes were already
[11] taken and destroyed. We went down there, though,
[12] to get any additional information which he might
[13] have, and this is the information here.
[14] Q: Did anyone ask you to go back to interview
[15] Agent Kellerman, or was that your own idea?
[16] A: Oh, no, no. Mr. Hoover directed us, we go
[17] back.
[18] Q: Did he give you any instructions regarding
[19] particular points that you should raise?
[20] A: None. None whatsoever.
[21] Q: Why did you interview Agent Behn?
[22] A: Gerry Behn? Because Gerry Behn was the

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[1] head of the White House detail. And Kellerman was
[2] only the–I don't want to say the junior head, but
[3] only the assistant special agent in charge.
[4] We wanted to get the information directly
[5] from Gerry Behn as to the procedures which Secret
[6] Service did have relative to the protection of the
[7] President.
[8] Q: Why would that be done out of the
[9] Baltimore field office, rather than the –
[10] A: Very good.
[11] Q: – Washington field office?
[12] A: There has always been a feeling of
[13] contention there, because Washington field office
[14] was very jealous of their particular jurisdiction.
[15] And we were out of Baltimore field office.
[16] The SAC in Baltimore called the–I mean,
[17] the SAC in Washington field called the SAC in
[18] Baltimore, and discussed with him that if there
[19] were any further investigation to be done in
[20] Washington, D.C., it would be done by FBI agents
[21] from the Washington field division.
[22] Tully said, "Well, my men have already

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[1] developed a rapport with the two special agents,
[2] and we're going to send them on back to be
[3] interviewed, because we got a call from Bureau
[4] headquarters now."
[5] So, the SAC in WFO then called the Bureau.
[6] And the Bureau supervisor over there, evidently,
[7] decided, "Well, this is the type of a problem– We
[8] should give it to Mr. Hoover."
[9] So, Hoover got all the facts and said,
[10] "We'll send the two agents back from Baltimore.
[11] Since they've already started this, let them finish
[12] it." Or words to that effect.
[13] Q: You said that you did not receive any
[14] particular directions on what to ask Kellerman.
[15] Did you receive any directions on what to ask
[16] either Greer or Behn?
[17] A: No. But the word came from FBI
[18] headquarters that this was taken under very, very
[19] trying circumstances, and to go back to see if
[20] there's anything additional which they would want
[21] to furnish to us after they had a chance to
[22] recollect.

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[1] And, also, for my– Well, I don't want to
[2] say for my own personal reason. But we wanted to
[3] find out where the Vice President was; what he was
[4] doing; how did the Air Force get both of them to
[5] come off a plane together, or something similar to
[6] that.
[7] We wanted to find out the procedure in
[8] taking the presidential car up, which we found out
[9] came from Air Force Two, et cetera, and all that.
[10] Q: Why was it that you wanted to understand
[11] that?
[12] A: For information purposes, to make the
[13] report as complete as possible, or in case anybody
[14] did ask a question.
[15] "Well, wait a minute. Where was the
[16] Vice President? What's the Vice President doing
[17] when he was down in Dallas"–I mean, "when he's
[18] over in Fort Worth? What's he doing, meeting the
[19] President over here now up in Dallas? How did he
[20] get there?"
[21] Well, this would explain how he got there.
[22] Q: Okay.

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[1] A: For information purposes.
[2] Q: I'd now like to turn to the interview that
[3] you had with Arlen Specter. What I'd like to do is
[4] give you a copy of what we understand to be notes
[5] that Mr. Specter created after that interview, and
[6] have you take a look at them.
[7] First, let me show you the document we've
[8] marked as Exhibit No. 154, which appears on its
[9] face to be dated March 12th, 1964, from Arlen
[10] Specter to Mr. J. Lee Rankin.
[11] So, the first question to you is, have you
[12] previously seen this document?
[13] A: No, I have not.
[14] Q: If you take a minute –
[15] A: I didn't even know it existed.
[16] Q: If you can take a moment–or as much time
[17] as you need–to read through that, and then let me
[18] know whether you believe that it accurately
[19] summarizes the conversation that you had with
[20] Mr. Specter.
[21] A: [Examining document.] It's a lot of bull.
[22] Q: Well –

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[1] A: Excuse the term. I–I beg your pardon.
[2] Q: Can you tell me what you're referring to
[3] when you –
[4] A: Well, I just found here, "SA O'Neill and
[5] Sibert advised that they did not recall any
[6] discussion of the theory that the bullet might have
[7] been forced out by external cardiac massage until
[8] after Sibert reported the finding of the bullet on
[9] the stretcher." [Examining document.]
[10] MR. GUNN: Can we go off the record for a
[11] second?
[12] THE WITNESS: Please.
[13] [Discussion off the record.]
[14] THE WITNESS: I find that this–well,
[15] number one, it's very poorly worded, to begin with.
[16] Number two, there would have been no
[17] reason whatsoever for the surgeons to discuss the
[18] bullet working its way out through external cardiac
[19] massage, until such time as they found that there
[20] was a bullet on a stretcher in Dallas.
[21] So, when we come down here, "...advised
[22] that he is sure that his notes would not have shown

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[1] when the Doctors expressed the thought"–of course,
[2] they did–"that they bullet might have been forced
[3] out by external heart massage, in relation to the
[4] time that they learned of..."
[5] Q: Could –
[6] A: This is–I'm sorry–disturbing.
[7] Q: Let's go back. What I'd really like you
[8] to do–if you could identify what it is that you
[9] find to be inaccurate in this.
[10] A: All right.
[11] Q: When you go back and then start reading
[12] it, it becomes confusing as to whether you're
[13] saying it in the deposition or whether you're
[14] reading something.
[15] Let's try it this way, if we –
[16] A: Okay.
[17] Q: Can go back and start from the beginning.
[18] A: "SA –"
[19] Q: Let's take the first large paragraph. So,
[20] the paragraph beginning: "Special Agents O'Neill
[21] and Sibert..."
[22] A: "...advised –"

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[1] Q: Is there anything in that paragraph that
[2] you find to be inaccurate?
[3] A: This is the first one.
[4] Yes, I– The words "substantial efforts"
[5] to determine if there was a missile in the
[6] President's–Kennedy's body.
[7] As I specifically recall it, there was not
[8] a substantial effort. The effort was made by
[9] probing. Now, if they want to term that as a
[10] "substantial effort", then, that's what they did.
[11] They did not review any X-rays, to my
[12] knowledge, at that time. I don't know whether they
[13] subsequent did.
[14] But this was the– As far as they was
[15] concerned– And I don't know whether it was
[16] substantial or not. But this is what I object to
[17] there, where they say a "substantial"–that
[18] particular word there.
[19] Q: Okay. If we could go to the next
[20] paragraph –
[21] A: Wait a minute.
[22] Q: Oh.

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[1] A: [Examining document.] No, I don't recall
[2] ever saying that. They say Coombs (sic)– Excuse
[3] me. "...Commander Humes and Lieutenant Colonel
[4] Finck that the bullet –"
[5] COURT REPORTER: Sir. Sir, would –
[6] THE WITNESS: This is something which I
[7] disagree with; right. Put it that way.
[8] BY MR. GUNN:
[9] Q: Okay. What we–what I'd like to do is get
[10] clearly what it is that you disagree with. And
[11] that's what we're not– This part of the transcript
[12] is going to be very confused.
[13] A: Yes, it certainly is. I'm sorry.
[14] Q: Just– What is the statement that you
[15] understand Mr. Specter to be making in the first –
[16] A: Well, we're still in the first paragraph
[17] here.
[18] Q: Still in the first large paragraph.
[19] A: All right. This section here, wherein
[20] Mr. Specter says, "They stated that the opinion was
[21] expressed by Commander Humes and Lieutenant Colonel
[22] Finck that the bullet might have been forced out of

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[1] the back of the President's body upon application
[2] of external heart massage."
[3] I do not recall that ever taking place,
[4] until such time as after Jim had come back and said
[5] that there was a bullet found on a stretcher in
[6] Dallas. All right?
[7] Q: Okay.
[8] A: "They stated this theory was advanced..."
[9] Wait a minute. [Examining document.]
[10] Q: Okay. With the sentence that begins "They
[11] stated that..." through the end of the paragraph,
[12] is there anything else that you disagree with?
[13] A: No, that sounds pretty good to me. "They
[14] stated this theory was advanced after SA Sibert
[15] called the FBI laboratory..."
[16] I disagree with the words "may have"
[17] worked its way out. They did not– In fact, Humes
[18] was the one who specifically that, "That explains
[19] it. The bullet worked its way out through external
[20] cardiac message." I think we have that in our
[21] report. It was not "may have", "could have",
[22] "which we"– Specifically.

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[1] All right, now. "...advised that they did
[2] not recall any discussion of the theory that the
[3] bullet..." There was no theory, to my knowledge,
[4] at all.
[5] Q: So, what would be a more correct way of
[6] stating that?
[7] A: Well, I would not have written what he
[8] said to begin with. But it'd be: SA O'Neill and
[9] Sibert advised that they did not recall any
[10] discussion of the "fact", rather than "theory".
[11] Q: Let's try it this way. What did you tell
[12] Senator Specter in this regard?
[13] A: We told specifically what Jim–what the
[14] doctor said. The doctor said–after he heard that
[15] there was a bullet found on the stretcher in
[16] Dallas–that it was apparent and quite evident that
[17] the bullet worked its way out through external
[18] cardiac massage in Dallas.
[19] Q: Okay.
[20] A: Specifically. In fact, two or three times
[21] we used it to emphasize what we said.
[22] "SA...advised that he made no notes during

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[1] the autopsy." Now, that's not true. Jim did make
[2] notes during the autopsy, and so did I.
[3] [Examining document.] I'm talking to
[4] myself now. Maybe I shouldn't be.
[5] This. "SA O'Neill advised that he is sure
[6] that his notes would not have shown when the
[7] Doctors expressed the thought..." They didn't say
[8] they "thought".
[9] Specifically, he says that this is fact
[10] when he says, "Well, it's quite evident that the
[11] bullet worked its way through..." No. They never
[12] said they "thought" it might have worked its way
[13] out through external cardiac massage. Okay.
[14] Q: In other words, you would have told Arlen
[15] Specter that the doctors firmly believed that the
[16] bullet had worked its way out during cardiac
[17] massage?
[18] A: Yes. Now, bear in mind, also, that this
[19] whole situation with talk about external cardiac
[20] massage was taking place not at the beginning, not
[21] in the middle, but towards the end of the autopsy
[22] itself. And that they were very interested to know

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[1] what that wound was in the back. And this is the
[2] only explanation which they had.
[3] Now, I don't have any knowledge whatsoever
[4] what he's talking about here, interviewing
[5] Kellerman and Greer, "...on the portions of the FBI
[6] report which Kellerman and Greer repudiated." I
[7] don't know what he's talking about there.
[8] Does that say in the next section?
[9] Q: No.
[10] A: That last section–I mean, this section is
[11] quite right.
[12] Q: Which section is quite right?
[13] A: "...stated that they interviewed Kellerman
[14] and Greer formally on November 27th..." That was
[15] quite true.
[16] Remember when I said that they–we weren't
[17] taking notes in the open. This was something which
[18] was on the spur of the moment we were doing.
[19] "...that he is certain that he had a
[20] verbatim note on Kellerman's statement that the
[21] President said, 'Get me to the hospital' and
[22] also..."

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[1] "...O'Neill stated that he is certain that
[2] he has–he had a verbatim note on Kellerman's
[3] statement that the President said, 'Get me to the
[4] hospital'..."
[5] And we never said, "Get me to the
[6] hospital." He said just what I said he said.
[7] And then Mrs. Kennedy said, "Oh, no."
[8] You know what he did? This son of a gun.
[9] He went through my first notes in the first
[10] paragraph–I mean, the first 302, and extrapolated
[11] from that and forgot everything which was in the
[12] second interview of Kellerman.
[13] Q: When you say "he", you're –
[14] A: Meaning –
[15] Q: – referring to Mr. Specter?
[16] A: Mr. Specter.
[17] "...those were direct quotes from
[18] Kellerman because O'Neill used quotation marks in
[19] his report..." I didn't use quotation marks in my
[20] report; did I? No, I don't see–I don't recall any
[21] quotation marks in those reports.
[22] No, I can't agree with this paragraph

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[1] which extends on to page two, because I explained
[2] to you what I thought the reasons were. And there–where
[3] there's a difference in the–what he said
[4] one day, and said another day.
[5] [Examining document.] All right. They
[6] were, then.
[7] Q: Quotation marks around what –
[8] A: "Get me –"
[9] Q: – Mr. Kellerman said.
[10] A: Let me see. "He observed the President
[11] slump forward, and heard him say, 'Get me to the
[12] hospital.'" Okay.
[13] Now, he had the benefit of this report at
[14] that time that he's interviewing us almost a year
[15] later; isn't that true?
[16] Q: No, no. It's just a few months later.
[17] A: Oh, a couple months later. That's true.
[18] I think he's a very smart attorney. He's
[19] a very weasel-words type of individual, with the
[20] way he conjects various things and puts things into
[21] our mouths, quite frankly.
[22] I'll tell you, also, since we're on the

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[1] record, that he was a second lieutenant or a first
[2] lieutenant in OSI, and gave me the impression and
[3] gave Jim the impression that he was quite an
[4] investigator. I think I specifically asked him
[5] something about how many investigations he
[6] conducted–or words to that effect. And it was
[7] none.
[8] There was something else, too. I don't
[9] know whether Jim told you this or not. When we
[10] first walked into that interview with Mr. Specter,
[11] we introduced ourselves and sat down. And I would
[12] say within a matter of a minute, a telephone rang;
[13] and he got up and left the room.
[14] I'll pull that same stunt myself with
[15] witnesses, thinking that the two of them might say
[16] something when they came back–you know, when they
[17] left the room.
[18] Jim and I, to my recollection, didn't say
[19] a word during the period of time he came back in–until he
[20] came back in, which was about five minutes
[21] later. And I don't know whether he gave a reason
[22] for being out or not.

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[1] And I said something to the effect, you
[2] know, "That was a very juvenile thing to do," or
[3] something in that particular vein. And you can put
[4] that in the–on the record.
[5] He was not the type– He was not the type
[6] of agent that I would have hired, if I was a–or
[7] the type of investigator that I would have hired if
[8] I was–had the authority to pick people for the
[9] investigation with the Warren Commission.
[10] Q: Would it be fair to say that you thought
[11] that he was mischaracterizing the sense of what you
[12] were telling him?
[13] A: Without a doubt.
[14] Q: And what is the principal way in which he–you
[15] understand him to be attempting to
[16] mischaracterize what you have said?
[17] A: Well, I think one of the things he's doing
[18] here is to try to say that we did not specifically
[19] recall certain things during the first interview;
[20] wherein, the second interview, we did.
[21] I think he's trying to characterize both
[22] Jim and I as individuals who were not thorough in

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[1] our investigation or thorough in our interviews and
[2] reporting our interviews.
[3] And I think he's taking certain things
[4] said out of context, quite frankly. Specifically,
[5] down here. I'm sure that Jim had made notes,
[6] because we did compare notes. So, Jim had–did
[7] make notes. I did, too. But we took more when we
[8] went back, interviewing the two gentlemen in the
[9] White House.
[10] That was– Oh, here. Wait a minute on
[11] this one. [Examining document.]
[12] And I never recall saying so and so–Mr. Greer or
[13] Agent Greer "...told them just that,
[14] but they probably did not make any notes of these
[15] comments since their conversation with Greer was an
[16] informal one..."
[17] I think we were very specific with what we
[18] told the gentleman. In fact, I not only think, I
[19] know we were very specific with what we told him.
[20] It wasn't "probably", or "I think so", or something
[21] like that.
[22] And, also– Let me see. He only

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[1] interviewed us for about 45 minutes. I don't even
[2] recall it being that long.
[3] This whole second paragraph from "SA
[4] O'Neill and Sibert..." down to the point where
[5] "...a bullet on the stretcher..." is so–so –
[6] How can I give you the word here?
[7] – written in such a way that nobody knows
[8] exactly what was going on there. They didn't know,
[9] but there's a possibility. And the hypothesis, and
[10] went on and on. Very poorly put. I don't know
[11] what he's trying to say.
[12] And the next one is definitely false.
[13] Q: Which is that?
[14] A: "...Sibert advised that he made no notes
[15] during the autopsy." That's false.
[16] And O'Neill advised "he made only a few
[17] notes". Well, let's put it this way. How few
[18] notes could you make after one, two, three, four–four or
[19] five hours? Maybe three or four pages.
[20] Maybe 10 or 15.
[21] I don't know what's "few" or not. He
[22] might be characterizing a few notes as a page.

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[1] That's– Boy, what a weasel word. He hasn't
[2] changed; has he?
[3] [Examining document.] No, that's wrong.
[4] "Mr. O'Neill advised that...his notes would not
[5] have shown when the Doctors expressed the thought
[6] that the bullet might have been forced out..."
[7] And he– Put it this way. We– That's
[8] wrong, where he said "might have been forced out".
[9] My notes did show when they said that specific
[10] thing. That was right after Jim came back.
[11] THE WITNESS: Would it be possible to have
[12] a copy of this?
[13] MR. HORNE: Sure. I have it all ready for
[14] you.
[15] THE WITNESS: Oh, thank you. Would it
[16] also be possible to have that 302 on Kellerman and
[17] the–yeah.
[18] MR. GUNN: Any of the documents that we
[19] show you today, we'd be happy to give you copies
[20] of.
[21] THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.
[22] BY MR. GUNN:

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[1] Q: All right. Now, I'll show –
[2] A: I wish I could characterize this in
[3] certain terms, but I shan't. I won't dignify it.
[4] Q: I'd like to show you another document that
[5] purports to summarize that interview that you had
[6] with Mr. Specter. Let me hand you a document
[7] marked Exhibit No. 153, which on its face appears
[8] to be a memo, dated 3/12/64, from a Mr. Rosen to a
[9] Mr. Belmont.
[10] And my question to you, first, will be,
[11] have you seen previously the document?
[12] A: No, I have not.
[13] Q: If you'd like to take a moment and read
[14] through that.
[15] A: Yes. [Examining document.]
[16] Q: Let me ask some questions for you.
[17] A: I'm just trying to think of who actually
[18] dictated this. As I mentioned, this did not come–
[19] Ah, there I see. Yeah, Jim Malley. Okay.
[20] Q: Was there anyone else with you and
[21] Mr. Sibert in the interview with Arlen Specter?
[22] A: No.

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[1] Q: What did you do after the interview with
[2] Arlen Specter?
[3] A: Well, I– We came out of the interview
[4] room, and we made some discussion as to what a–for
[5] want of a better word–farce it was.
[6] [Discussion off the record.]
[7] BY MR. GUNN:
[8] Q: That is, you're referring to the–that it
[9] was a farce–the interview that Mr. Specter
[10] conducted?
[11] A: Yes. That is correct, yes.
[12] Q: And did you tell Mr. Malley that?
[13] A: Not in so many words, no. But I think he
[14] got the general feeling. I think the very first
[15] thing he said, "How did it go?"
[16] And we both said, "Fine, for what it was,"
[17] you know, or something or other. "Whatever it was,
[18] it went fine." But, no, we didn't specifically say
[19] that to Malley.
[20] Q: Did Mr. Malley– Did you understand that
[21] Mr. Malley would be preparing a report of your
[22] discussion with him about the interview?

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[1] A: He never specifically said that, but it is
[2] our general understanding, since Bureau supervisors
[3] those years took very little thing on themselves,
[4] and they always pushed it on up forward. So, we
[5] were 100 percent positive–"Well, I won't touch the
[6] question"–he was going to pass the buck on up the
[7] line.
[8] Q: But you did not know for certain that he
[9] had, in fact, recorded that until today; is that
[10] correct?
[11] A: I had heard in years past that he did
[12] write a memorandum. I never saw it until this
[13] moment.
[14] Q: Okay. And you've had now a chance to read
[15] through the memorandum marked Exhibit 153?
[16] A: Yes.
[17] Q: And is there anything that you find in
[18] this memorandum that appears to you to be
[19] substantially incorrect?
[20] A: No. Substantially, no. Not that is
[21] substantially incorrect. There are some things
[22] which could be further elaborated on, but not

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[1] substantially incorrect.
[2] Q: Is there anything that you noticed in the
[3] course of reading that you would like to correct in
[4] Exhibit 153?
[5] A: Correct 23–33 years later?
[6] Q: Better late than never.
[7] A: Possibly, the times. Approximately 7:15
[8] or something similar to that.
[9] Possibly, the fact that we were in the
[10] third car of the motorcade. I thought it was the
[11] second. Probably the third. I don't know at this
[12] date. I still think it was the second, but it
[13] could have been the third.
[14] Q: How would that be counting it? Two cars
[15] back from the ambulance?
[16] A: Well, no. It was including the ambulance.
[17] See, we didn't include the ambulance when we put it
[18] down. But if this was the third car in the
[19] motorcade, that would include the ambulance. So, I
[20] think that could be more specific.
[21] Q: Earlier in your deposition today, I recall
[22] that you said–and please correct me if I'm

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[1] incorrect–that the first car in the motorcade was
[2] the ambulance. The second car had Kenny
[3] O'Donnell –
[4] A: Yes, and McHugh.
[5] Q: – and some other people.
[6] A: And we were in the third car.
[7] Q: And you were in the third car?
[8] A: Yeah.
[9] Q: Okay. And is that your best understanding
[10] right now?
[11] A: Yes. Now, here–all it says, the third
[12] car in the motorcade. And I don't know what Jim
[13] was thinking about, or whether he meant third car,
[14] or that –
[15] Actually, it was the third car. The
[16] ambulance being the third car–I mean, the
[17] ambulance being the first car. And the second and
[18] third car.
[19] I would–I would question this. "Prior to
[20] SA Sibert calling the FBI –"
[21] Q: Excuse me. Which page?
[22] A: This is on page three.

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[1] "Prior to SA Sibert calling the FBI, did
[2] either of you..." et cetera, et cetera "...express
[3] an opinion as to whether the bullet wound in the
[4] back was a point of entry or a point of exit?"
[5] To my knowledge, they had never used the
[6] word "exit".
[7] And they say the answer, "We recall no
[8] such discussion."
[9] Yes, we did. It was discussed. And it
[10] was a point of entry. There was no discussion
[11] whatsoever, though, about being a point of exit.
[12] None.
[13] Q: So, now, if I understand what you're
[14] saying correctly– Let me try and rephrase this,
[15] and please correct me if I'm wrong.
[16] A: Yes.
[17] Q: The way that this is worded on page three
[18] could be ambiguous.
[19] A: Yes, it could be. Very well.
[20] Q: Whereas, you were saying the presumption
[21] that you had during the autopsy itself is that
[22] everyone was assuming that it was a point of entry.

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[1] And, so, to the question that is being
[2] put: Did anyone say, "Is this a exit point?" You
[3] say that there's no such discussion. Meaning
[4] because everybody assumed that it was an entry
[5] wound.
[6] A: The only question was, where was the point
[7] of exit? Not whether it was a point of entry or
[8] exit. But where was the exit–if, in fact, it was
[9] entry. And they assumed it was entry.
[10] Q: Okay.
[11] A: Now, let me see. [Examining document.]
[12] All right. And this is correct here. But
[13] once again, this is ambiguous. This is on page
[14] number four, the second answer.
[15] When they say, "remarks voluntarily made
[16] by these individuals and were subsequently recorded
[17] by us from recollection." And it should have been
[18] "and notes", because we did take notes.
[19] And as I mentioned before, these were not
[20] formal interviews. That's correct.
[21] And that's correct, the next one.
[22] Yeah. I see that Kellerman did give an

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[1] explanation.
[2] Substantially correct.
[3] Q: Okay. Could you turn to page two of the
[4] exhibit? And we're still talking about Exhibit
[5] 153.
[6] A: Yes, sir.
[7] Q: Where it refers to the timing.
[8] A: Yes.
[9] Q: The time 7:17 p.m. sounds relatively
[10] specific as a time.
[11] A: Yes, it does.
[12] Q: Do you know what the basis was for your
[13] saying 7:17?
[14] A: Only the fact that we probably wrote it
[15] down somewhere.
[16] Q: As you are sitting here today, would you
[17] assume that the time of 7:17 is a reasonably
[18] accurate time for the beginning of the autopsy?
[19] A: Substantially correct.
[20] Q: Let me –
[21] A: Bear in mind now –
[22] Q: Let me say, the beginning of the

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[1] preparation for the autopsy.
[2] A: Yes. Bear in mind now, the plane did not
[3] land until about 6:05. And there was that time
[4] getting it down into the ambulance, and then going
[5] about 20, 25 miles an hour, something like that.
[6] So, that would be substantially correct.
[7] Q: And is it your assumption today that the
[8] time of approximately 8:15 for the beginning of the
[9] autopsy is –
[10] A: Yes. Because they were doing other
[11] things, such as waiting for the X-rays, waiting
[12] with Colonel Finck. In fact, I think I was very
[13] specific on that. And I think I said the first
[14] incision occurred at 8:15, or something of that
[15] particular vein. Correct.
[16] I don't recall when the autopsy ended, but
[17] I know it was after midnight. Long after midnight.
[18] I don't recall, on page two, the last
[19] paragraph–the last–the answer, the words
[20] "entirely possible". Humes was not saying it was
[21] possible. He said, "That explains it. It worked
[22] its way out through external cardiac massage."

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[1] He stated prior to that–and then he
[2] thought about it. In fact, I think I do have that
[3] in my report, if I'm not mistaken. He wound up by
[4] saying this was it. "That explains it. It worked
[5] its way out." And it was concurred with the other
[6] doctors.
[7] Q: Okay. Could we go back –
[8] A: Sure.
[9] Q: – to Exhibit No. 151? I'd like to draw
[10] your attention–this is your 302 report–draw your
[11] attention to page two of that exhibit, where
[12] there's a reference to a Mr. Kellerman, Mr. Greer,
[13] and Mr. O'Leary –
[14] A: Bill O'Leary.
[15] Q: – at the autopsy. Who's Mr. O'Leary?
[16] A: He's another Secret Service agent who came
[17] in to–for some particular reason. Either to give
[18] something to them, discuss something, or possibly
[19] to ask when, I think, it was going to be completed,
[20] or when it was going to start.
[21] Because I believe he was upstairs, if I'm
[22] not mistaken. And he brought down some information

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[1] from either Mrs. Kennedy or Mr. Kennedy. I believe
[2] that, now. I've never been asked that question
[3] before.
[4] Q: Did you ever talk to Mr. O'Leary?
[5] A: No. No, not to my knowledge.
[6] Q: Had you known Mr. O'Leary prior to
[7] November 22nd?
[8] A: No.
[9] Q: Did you ever see him after November 22nd?
[10] A: No. I wouldn't recognize him today if he
[11] walked in here.
[12] Q: Do you know of any other Secret Service
[13] agents who were around –
[14] A: Yes.
[15] Q: – the hospital?
[16] A: Either Hill or Youngblood, one of them
[17] came into the room. And then there were some other
[18] agents that came in, who delivered the–the
[19] particular piece of –
[20] Q: Skull fragment?
[21] A: – the skull fracture, yeah.
[22] Either Hill or Youngblood. Who was the

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[1] one that jumped on top of Johnson?
[2] Q: Youngblood.
[3] A: Was that Youngblood? Then, it was Hill
[4] who came into the room.
[5] Q: Hill is the one who jumped on the back of
[6] the limousine.
[7] A: Yeah. Then, he would have been the one.
[8] Clint Hill, yeah.
[9] Q: Were you aware of any other Secret Service
[10] agents providing security at Bethesda on the night
[11] of the autopsy?
[12] A: No, I wasn't directly aware of it. I
[13] assumed that there were, but I was not directly
[14] aware of it.
[15] Q: So, you don't know the names of any other
[16] Secret Service people at –
[17] A: Not offhand.
[18] Q: – the autopsy or in the hospital area?
[19] A: If you mention some, it might jog my
[20] memory. But I don't recall any specifically.
[21] Q: Okay.
[22] [Discussion off the record.]

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[1] THE WITNESS: I would like to make a
[2] statement now.
[3] I'm reviewing this airtel that Jim sent
[4] down on 11/26/63. And I think it explains very-very
[5] vividly what I've mentioned to you here, such
[6] as:
[7] "The interviews conducted at the Naval
[8] Medical Center are not construed to be thorough
[9] interviews with these individuals, inasmuch as the
[10] primary purpose was to observe the autopsy and
[11] secure bullets or fragments immediately thereafter
[12] and transport them to the FBI laboratory."
[13] That's a very concise and true statement.
[14] They were not construed to be complete or thorough
[15] interviews. So, you see some discrepancies in the
[16] interviews of the 22nd and some on the 27th. As I
[17] mentioned, we did not take full notes on the 22nd.
[18] BY MR. GUNN:
[19] Q: Mr. O'Neill –
[20] A: Yes.
[21] Q: – I'd like to show you a document marked
[22] Exhibit No. 176. It appears, on its face, to be a

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[1] memo, dated November 22nd, 1963, from Mr. Belmont
[2] to Mr. Tolson.
[3] Let me ask you first whether you
[4] previously have seen that document?
[5] A: No, I have not.
[6] Q: I'm going to show you a document that is,
[7] to our understanding, the original of the Exhibit
[8] No. 176 that I have just shown you. Again, note
[9] the date of November 22nd, 1963.
[10] Let me also show you the stamps at the
[11] back of this, to show when various offices in the
[12] Bureau received that. The earliest date that I
[13] have seen as being stamped on this, though I'm not
[14] certain it is correct is –
[15] A: November 23rd.
[16] Q: – November 23rd at 5:00 p.m. So, whether
[17] the date November 22nd is correct or not, I don't
[18] know.
[19] What I'd like you to do is to look to one
[20] portion of –
[21] A: The report.
[22] Q: – this report on the first paragraph.

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[1] And I will read this for the record, and you can
[2] read along with me in the first paragraph.
[3] "I told SAC Shanklin that the Secret
[4] Service had one of the bullets that struck
[5] President Kennedy, and the other is –"
[6] A: Wait a minute. I don't see that.
[7] Whereabouts is that?
[8] Oh, down here at the bottom. Oh, I
[9] thought you were going to the top. I beg your
[10] pardon.
[11] Q: No. Let me take it from the beginning.
[12] "I told SAC Shanklin –"
[13] A: Right.
[14] Q: "– that Secret Service had one of the
[15] bullets that struck President Kennedy, and the
[16] other is lodged behind the President's ear. And we
[17] are arranging to get both of these."
[18] Do you see the reference to the other
[19] being lodged behind the President's ear?
[20] A: I certain see that reference, yes.
[21] Q: Did you ever hear anything about a bullet
[22] being lodged behind President Kennedy's ear?

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[1] A: Never.
[2] Q: Did you ever tell anyone at the Bureau
[3] that you had any information about a bullet being
[4] lodged behind the President's ear?
[5] A: Never.
[6] Q: Mr. O'Neill, I would like to give you the
[7] opportunity, if there's anything else that you
[8] would like to add that you think would help clarify
[9] the record related to the assassination or give any
[10] additional recollections that you have.
[11] A: Well, just very briefly, one or two very
[12] small-well, not small things looking back.
[13] But in the interview with Arlen Specter,
[14] at no time does he say anything about the words
[15] spoken by Kellerman on the 22nd or the 23rd-I
[16] mean, on the 27th.
[17] Regardless of the terminology, both of
[18] them indicate that the President said something in
[19] the back seat of that car. And that would have
[20] been after the first shot. And there is nothing
[21] whatsoever said about that in that particular 302
[22] or in that particular statement which he made.

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[1] Q: You're referring to Mr. Specter's summary
[2] of the –
[3] A: That is correct, yes. There's nothing.
[4] And that-to me, that's an extremely important
[5] point; that the President himself, after the first
[6] shot, said something in the back of the car.
[7] Q: And in what way do you regard that as
[8] being significant?
[9] A: Because the single-bullet theory is based
[10] on that first bullet coming in the back and coming
[11] out through the neck. And it would seem that if it
[12] came out through the neck, that it would disturb
[13] the vocal cords to a point where the President
[14] could not have said something.
[15] So, whether or not the President said, "My
[16] God, I've been hit", or "I've been hit. Get to the
[17] hospital", or something similar to that, Kellerman
[18] did say, on both occasions– The terminology is
[19] different, but he did say that he heard the
[20] President in the back seat say something-the
[21] President say something. "My God, I've been hit"
[22] or "Get me to the hospital."

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[1] That, to me, would discount to a large
[2] extent the single-bullet theory as put forth by
[3] Mr. Specter. And he is the author, as I understand
[4] it, of the single-bullet theory.
[5] It would seem, to properly inform the
[6] members of the Warren Commission of the interview
[7] which we had with him, he would have set forth
[8] those particular statements.
[9] That's one thing.
[10] Q: Okay.
[11] A: The other situations, too, here with
[12] certain things that Shanklin said. I don't know
[13] where he heard that information; but, certainly, it
[14] never came from me, or it never came from Jim
[15] Sibert-or anything similar to that.
[16] And, once again, I must reiterate. As Jim
[17] has said in the airtel-going back to the 23rd, I
[18] believe it is-they were not formal interviews
[19] which we took. Thank God we took them, because a
[20] lot of the material which has been used in years
[21] past and the Warren Commission, too, is based on
[22] the information which we furnished.

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[1] I'm not sorry now that we destroyed our
[2] notes. I'm glad we did, because we were following
[3] Bureau procedures. But it would have been nice to
[4] have the total and complete notes here at the
[5] present time-looking back, of course. And I'm
[6] glad we're putting this on the record now.
[7] Would I have done anything differently or
[8] put it differently in paper? No. Anything which I
[9] said, and anything which Jim and I said together,
[10] was factual as we saw it and as it was given to us
[11] at that particular time. Time has not changed my
[12] mind, nor changed my opinion of what occurred that
[13] evening.
[14] And anything further you'd like to ask me,
[15] go right ahead.
[16] Q: Let me try one last question. We have
[17] heard statements by people who say that you have
[18] stated previously that there was a decoy ambulance
[19] or a chase ambulance.
[20] Have you ever told anyone that there was a
[21] decoy ambulance?
[22] A: I recall people asking me if there had

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[1] been a decoy ambulance, and I said I did hear
[2] something about an ambulance. But never that there
[3] had been a decoy ambulance, no. Not to my
[4] knowledge.
[5] Q: Okay.
[6] MR. GUNN: Okay. Well, I'd like to thank
[7] you very much for your time, and coming down and
[8] speaking with us. We appreciate it.
[9] THE WITNESS: Thank you.
[10] [Whereupon, at 3:40 p.m., the taking of
[11] the deposition concluded.]
[12] [Signature not waived.]
[13]
[14]
[15]
[16]
[17]
[18]
[19]
[20]
[21]

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[1] CERTIFICATE OF DEPONENT
[2]
[3] I have read the foregoing pages, which
[4] contain the correct transcript of the answers made
[5] by me to the questions therein recorded.
[6]
[7]
[8]
[9] Francis X. O'Neill, Jr.
[10]
[11]
[12]
[13]
[14] Subscribed and sworn to before me this
[15] _____ day of _____ 1997.
[16]
[17]
[18]
[19] Notary Public in and for
[20]
[21] My commission expires
[22]

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